Sunday, May 13, 2007 ★★★ 24 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 154 P20 website: www.inquirer.net

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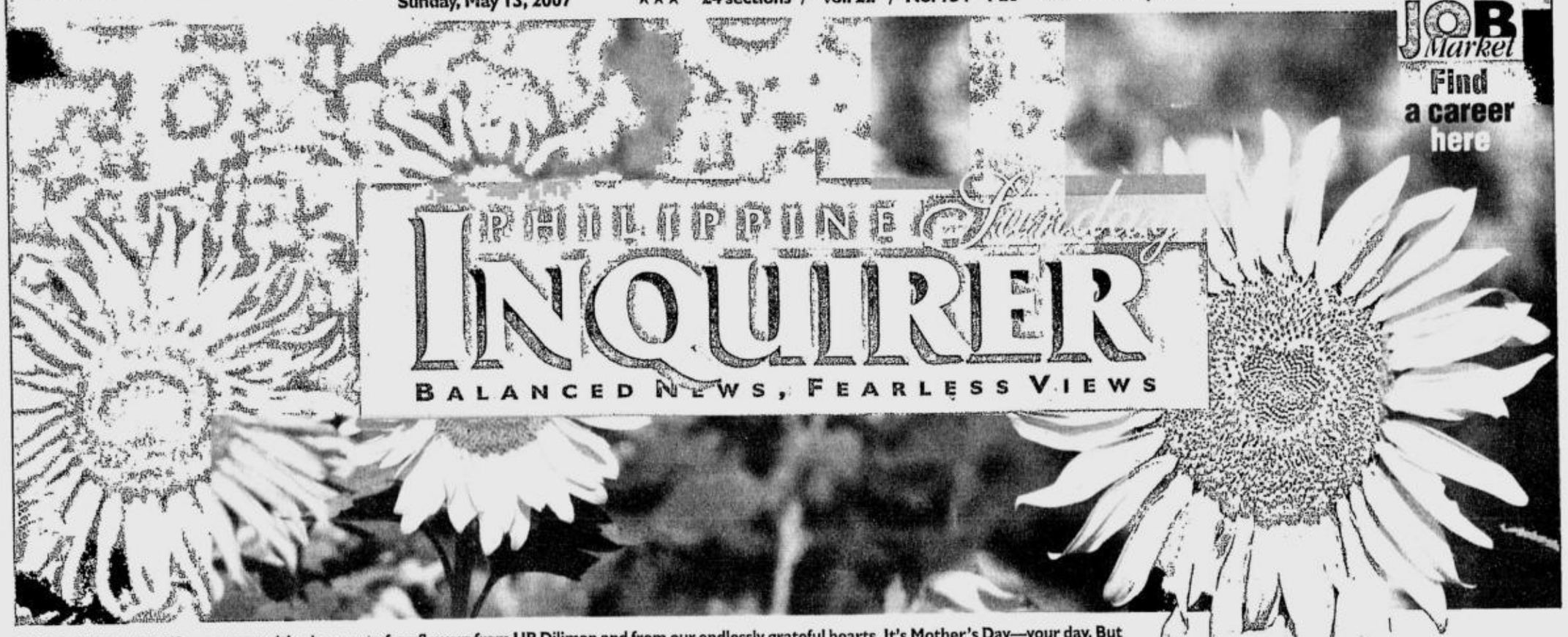

HELLO, MOTHERS. We greet you with a bouquet of sunflowers from UP Diliman and from our endlessly grateful hearts. It's Mother's Day—your day. But then, everyday truly belongs to you. Because where would we be without you? INQUIRER PHOTO

Jonas' mother forgives

But Edita Burgos says she will continue to search for missing son

By Fe Zamora

IN THE DARK NIGHT OF HER SOUL, EDITA BURGOS, mother of the missing activist Jonas Burgos, has done what others may deem unthinkable.

"I have forgiven my son's abductors, his torturers, and even their Commander in Chief. I am at peace with the Lord. Now I will continue searching for my son," Burgos yesterday told other mothers of missing persons who had gathered for a Mother's Day fellowship at the Good Shepherd convent in Cubao, Quezon City.

"We are in the dark night of the soul. If we accept what has happened and forgive the wrong done us, the dawn will come early," she said.

Burgos, widow of the late press freedom fighter Jose Burgos Jr. and now a secular nun of the Discalced Carmelites, said prayers had helped her cope with the pain of not knowing the whereabouts of her "most generous child."

Thirty-six-year-old Jonas, Burgos' third child, is an agriculturist engaged in training peasants in organic farming. He was abducted by yet unidentified men from the Ever Gotesco mall in Quezon City on April 28 and has not been heard from since.

The license plate (TAB 194) of the vehicle used in his abduction has been traced to a jeepney impounded at the headquarters of the 56th Infantry Battalion in Norzagaray, Bulacan.

After two weeks of denying having Jonas in its custody, and later claiming that the license plate was stolen from the military camp, the Army leadership relieved Lt. Col. Melquiades Feliciano, commander of the 56th IB, to give way to an "impartial investigation."

At the austere patio of the convent, a streamer provided a fitting backdrop to

JONAS'/ A19

Sunshine Cruz: My life is upside down, on call 24/7

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Entertainment

THE SENATORIAL BID OF CESAR "Buboy" Montano has yielded precious lessons not only for the candidate, but also for his wife, singer-actress Sunshine Cruz.

"I've learned a lot. My world was turned upside down," Cruz tells the INQUIRER in an interview.

One good thing about the campaign, she explains, is that it has allowed her to visit places near and far. "The farthest I've gone to is Candon, Ilocos Sur. I've also been to Palawan and Bicol."

The campaign has also helped her overcome her phobia of speaking in public. "I can sing in front of thousands of people, but I have this fear of giving speeches because I don't want to make mistakes."

Fortunately, the sorties have permitted her to interact with, and learn from, her husband's fellow senatorial candidates, along with their spouses.

"If not for the campaign, I wouldn't

SUNSHINE/ A12

SUNSHINE Cruz shines on the campaign trail with or without her husband, Cesar Montano. She learned public speaking, visited places she's never been to and met the likes of Joker Arroyo, Ed Angara and their wives. INQUIRER PHOTO

THE HAPPY CANDIDATE, Sonia Roco, with the "floral disposition." INQUIRER PHOTO

Sonia's fun run: Shed no tears for Raul's widow

By Volt Contreras

NO MATTER THE SURVEYS, SONIA ROco has seen, felt and learned enough on the hustings for her to flash a winner's smile.

As the elections near and most candidates are losing sleep, doubling their bodyguards, or spending their last few millions, this Genuine Opposition candidate has kept her campaign modest, fresh and unaffected, much like the trademark floral shirts worn by her husband, the late Sen. Raul Roco.

Roco said she has probably been able to maintain her "floral" disposition throughout the campaign because of the "positive energy" she has kept within herself amid the dirt and muck of Philippine politics.

She said she has avoided speaking negatively about any of her rivals and would "connect with the higher power" by finding moments to meditate and breathe calmly between sorties.

As only the second politician's widow to run for a national position—after former President Corazon Aquino—Roco recalls her poignant, sometimes amusing, encounters with voters who rooted for her husband in previous senatorial races and in the 2004 presidential election.

Working the sidewalk crowd in Pasay City, for instance, she met a woman who, after being told who she was, leaned closer to ask her in Filipino: "So where is the senator?"

Rather than disappoint the woman

SONIA'S/ A13

'Da King' lives, endorses GO in 'miting de avance'

By Dona Pazzibugan

AT THE "MITING DE AVANCE" OF THE GENuine Opposition Friday night, senatorial candidates got a surprise endorsement from "Da King" of Philippine movies.

It turned out that "Da King" was actually Jimmy Guerrero, an impersonator of the late action king and presidential aspirant Fernando Poe Jr.

Guerrero took center stage in the middle of the miting de avance at the Folk Arts Theater in

'DA KING'/ A10

Helen Gamboa: Why she left for US, other controversies

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Entertainment

IN THE HEAT OF VICENTE "TITO" Sotto III's campaign for the Senate, his wife, singer-actress Helen Gamboa, flew to the United States.

Was there trouble in the Sotto household?

The couple's eldest daughter, Apples, denied this: Her mom accompanied youngest sister Ciara, also a singer-actress, who is exploring work prospects abroad.

Apples, who was in Pangasinan on a campaign sortie with Dad, sent this message last Thursday via SMS to the INQUIRER: "They left for the US on April 20. Ciara is the baby in the family. My mom had to accompany Ciara, but she will be back as soon as things are settled there."

Before intrigue-mongers could speculate the worst, Gamboa e-mailed her answers to the INQUIRER's questionnaire last Thursday.

HELEN/ A12

CENTER OF ATTENTION: Helen Gamboa and husband Tito Sotto at their son's wedding last year. INQUIRER PHOTO

Nation goes to polls on a wing and a prayer

By Winston A. Marbella
Contributor

ANALYSIS

THE NATION GOES TO THE POLLS TOmorrow on a wing and a prayer—that despite gaping holes in the electoral process, everything will turn out fine.

Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. hopes to announce the winners within 72 hours. He will need a lot of wind beneath his wings.

Thankfully, many sectoral groups have rounded up at least a million volunteers to watch the polls, do a quick count, and attend to the thousand and one details that make elections work. And if that is not enough, there is plenty of hot air left over from

NATION/ A10

ENTERTAINMENT / K1

Why Cameron Diaz seems to outdo Imelda's shoe collection.

ENTERTAINMENT /J1

Ruffa Gutierrez, mom Annabelle Rama to discuss marriage breakup on ABS-CBN's 'The Buzz' and GMA-7's 'Showbiz Central.'

NEWS / A6

Today is the 90th anniversary of the first appearance of the Blessed Mother to 3 children in Fatima, Portugal.

LIFESTYLE / C2

Giving moms fun, beauty, styling, pampering, and how we finally become our mothers.

NEWS / A2

Comelec: Joselito "Peter" Cayetano still in official list of Senate bets pending SC ruling

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2007

Second FRONTPAGE

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15 9 | 2 6 1 6 9 7
Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening
3 2 8 | 1 7 2
(All in exact order)
6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN
2 3 24 27 38 41
P4,546,269.00

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon, Western Visayas, Western and Southern Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: LAW DE GUZMAN, INQUIRER RESEARCH/05/12/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

Comelec: Other Cayetano still in list

By Jerome Aning and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

NOT SO FAST. THERE WILL STILL BE TWO Cayetanos in the list of senatorial candidates on election day.

Although Joselito Pepito "Peter" Cayetano—the namesake of Genuine Opposition (GO) senatorial candidate Alan Peter Cayetano—was disqualified by the Commission on Elections on May 11 for being a "nuisance," the decision is not yet final.

"He has five days upon receipt of the Comelec ruling to file an appeal before the Supreme Court," Comelec spokesperson James Arthur Jimenez told the INQUIRER.

That gives Joselito, a former stevedore in the Sasa wharf in Davao who was recruited into the senatorial race by the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL), up to Wednesday—after the elections—to contest his disqualification.

"Yes, he remains a candidate," Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

In the meantime, Jimenez said all votes written as "Cayetano" only would be considered stray.

Joselito's lawyer, John Joshua A. Atienza, has made it clear that an appeal will be filed. Yesterday afternoon, Atienza already filed a manifestation before the Comelec stressing that since the resolution was not yet final, Pepito's name should not be stricken off the official candidates list.

Atienza also warned the Comelec that removing Joselito's name from the official list while the disqualification case is still pending "could constitute an impeachable offense."

In ruling Joselito was a nuisance candidate Friday, the Comelec cited his adoption of the nickname "Peter," thus threatening the candidacy of Alan Peter Cayetano. His real nickname is "Jojo."

"I'm the perfect example of 'Justice delayed, justice denied,'" Alan Peter Cayetano protested.

The Comelec decision had come too late to benefit him in Monday's polls.

"*Nagawa na nila ang* purpose *nila* (They have achieved their purpose)," he lamented, adding that this was part of a "bigger plot to derail his senatorial bid."

He also believed the Comelec's decision to rule on his petition just three days before the May 14 elections was "deliberate."

He said he had received reports the name of Joselito Pepito Cayetano had been included in election returns (ERs) distributed to all election precincts.

Alan Cayetano's lawyer, Leila de Lima, said they would appeal the Friday ruling and insist that the original Comelec division ruling of March 27 declaring Joselito a nuisance candidate was in effect.

"We regard the Comelec's decision allowing him to appeal the (March 27) decision a legal superfluity that we will also raise before the Supreme Court," De Lima said in a phone interview.

She also questioned why the "Cayetano" only votes would be regarded as stray. They will ask Comelec to allow a provisional tally for such votes, to be awarded later after the contest was resolved.

At any rate, De Lima said she advised Alan Peter and his campaigners to continue to tell voters to write "Alan Cayetano" on their ballots to ensure that their votes would be credited to the GO candidate.

In Davao City, meanwhile, Joselito Cayetano's 74-year-old mother said she was relieved by the news that her son had been disqualified.

"I am very happy he has been disqualified," Conrada Cayetano told the INQUIRER in the vernacular. But she added that she feared for his safety.

"I still don't know where he is. He has not contacted us," Conrada said.

She said she suspected Joselito's handlers were holding her son "against his will."

"We don't know what his situation is now. I just pray that he comes home safe," Conrada said.

With reports from Dona Pazzibugan, and Dennis Jay C. Santos, Inquirer Mindanao

Death toll in election-related violence climbs to 112

By Inquirer Mindanao, Inquirer Southern Luzon and Inquirer Central Luzon

VIOLENCE AHEAD OF MONDAY'S midterm elections has claimed eight more lives, raising the death toll from poll-related incidents to 112 as of yesterday.

Gunmen ambushed late Friday the convoy of Salaban Diocolano, a Lakas-CMD candidate for reelection as mayor of Kabuntalan in Shariff Kabunsuan province, killing four people and injuring four others.

Chief Supt. Joel Golitao, police chief of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said among the dead were three of the attackers and Diocolano's driver.

Diocolano was slightly wounded in the attack, he said.

Goltiao said Diocolano and his party were on board a Mitsubishi Pajero and were on their way to Cotabato City around 9:30 p.m. when unidentified gunmen attacked the convoy in Upper Taviran village.

Diocolano's escorts returned fire and killed three of the suspects, Goltiao said.

The mayor's driver, who was identified as Nardo Idzes, was also killed.

Goltiao identified those injured as PO2 Salendab Uttoh, Pfc. Sammy Diocolano, and a Pfc. Usman—all escorts of the mayor.

Goltiao said the ambush was apparently politically motivated.

In Esperanza, Masbate, a bodyguard of a mayoral candidate, who was allegedly distributing sample ballots with money inside, was killed Saturday in the crossfire when policemen who arrested him were fired upon by unknown gunmen.

The victim was identified as Romeo La Mesa, a bodyguard of mayoral candidate McJohn Seachon, who is running under Kampi.

However, La Mesa's family, as reported by ABS-CBN's local network here, claimed the victim was abducted by Police Special Action Force agents while he was in a meeting with the town's barangay officials, contradicting police reports.

In Bulacan, Bulacan, a campaign contributor of a mayoral candidate was killed while nine others were wounded after motorcycle-riding gunmen fired at their vehicles on Friday night.

Police chief Supt. Absalom Salboro said Luisito Sta. Maria, 42, a grandson and campaign contributor of former Mayor Anacleto Meneses, was driving a Toyota Fortuner with his wife, Elizabeth, 36, when they were attacked at about 7:30 p.m.

Investigators were looking at robbery as a possible motive as two bags containing an undetermined amount of money were reported missing from Sta. Maria's vehicle.

Salboro said Sta. Maria died while being taken to a hospital in Balagtas town. Sta. Maria's wife, who sustained bullet wounds, was taken to the Sacred Hospital in Malolos City.

In Castillejos, Zambales, Aurelio Fastidio, a candidate for councilor, died of a heart attack. *(See story on Page A17.)*

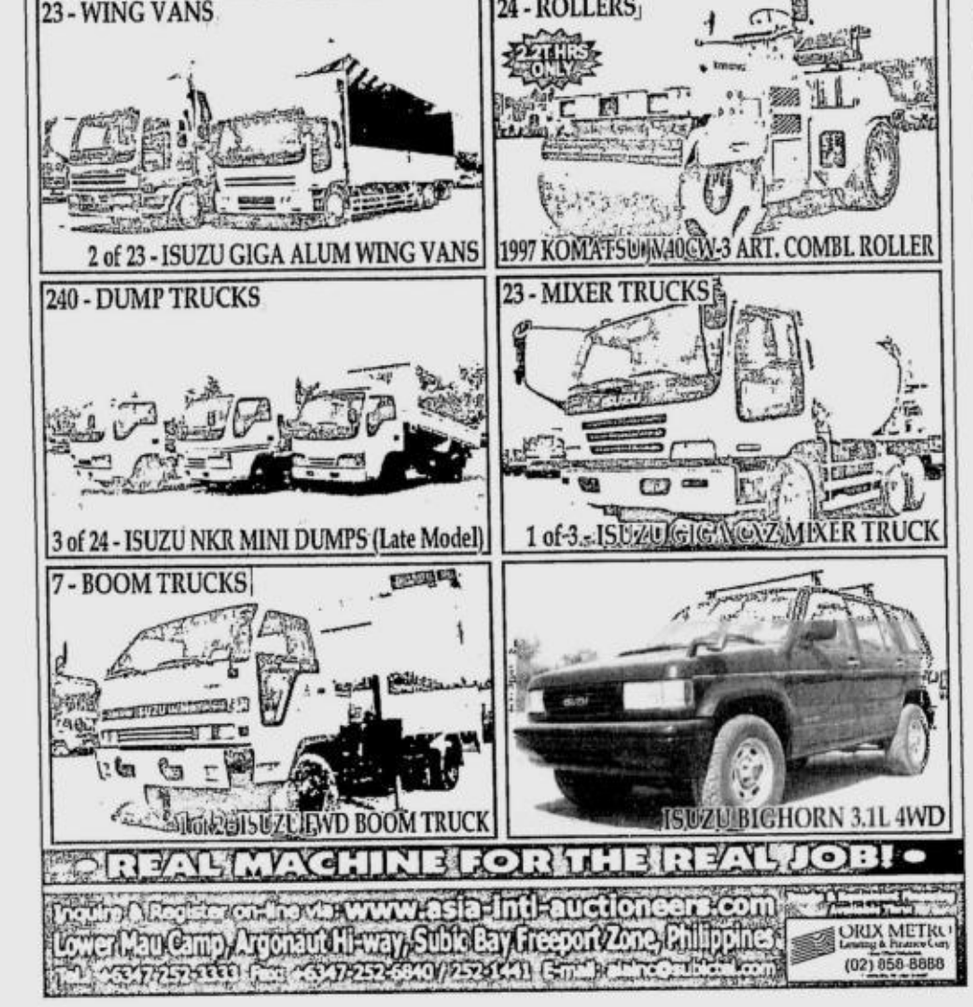
In another poll-related clash, one soldier was killed and 18 security personnel were wounded in a two-hour gunbattle Saturday with New People's Army rebels in Bontoc, Mountain Province, the military said.

Killed in the clash was Pvt. Vincie Ezperanzate. The wounded soldiers and policemen were taken to a hospital.

As this developed, five cities in Metro Manila and several municipalities and cities in 43 other provinces throughout the country have been placed on the Commission on Elections list of "areas of immediate concern."

In Metro Manila, the Comelec said it was keeping an eye on the cities of Pasay, Pasig, Caloocan, Marikina and Taguig.

With reports from Edwin Fernandez, Jeoffrey Maitem, Aquiles Zonio, Dennis Santos and Germelina Lacorte, Inquirer Mindanao; Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon; Desiree Caluza and Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon, and Jerome Aning.



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Bro. Mike bares his 'chosen 12' for the Senate

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EL SHADDAI Catholic charismatic group leader Bro. Mike Velarde (right) endorses lawyer Roman Romulo for representative of the lone district of Pasig City. Velarde has also made known his choice of senatorial candidates.

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

EL SHADDAI LEADER BRO. MIKE Velarde yesterday endorsed five candidates from Team Unity, five from the Genuine Opposition and two independents.

TU candidates Edgardo Angara, Prospero Pichay, Joker Arroyo, Mike Defensor and Migz Zubiri; GO's Loren Legarda, Francis Escudero, Manuel Villar, Panfilo Lacson and Benigno Aquino III; and independents Gregorio Honasan and Francis Pangilinan got the coveted nod of the influential leader of the Catholic charismatic group which counts up to five million members.

Velarde told the INQUIRER in an interview that he would endorse his 5-5-2 slate during a big El Shaddai prayer rally scheduled last night at Rizal Park. He would not mention names, he said, but would do it by giving out obvious clues.

"The 5-5-2 will easily be discerned by our members through my body language," Velarde said.

While he revealed his chosen 12, Velarde actually endorsed a total of 20 candidates from which El Shaddai members can choose. He said he wanted to give his members wider latitude in making their own choices of who deserve to be in the Senate.

El Shaddai Sample ballots listing an 8-8-4 for TU, GO and independent candidates will be distributed to members during the rally which organizers said would bring together as many as 300,000 people.

Aside from those in Velarde's 5-5-2, the longer list includes Vicente Sotto III, Ralph Recto and Cesar Montano from TU; Sonia Roco, Aquilino Pimentel III and Antonio Trillanes from GO and independents Martin Bautista and Adrian Sison.

Velarde earlier said he chose the candidates based on the qualities of "Buhay," meaning bravery, unwavering principle, honesty, ability and being Yawheh or God-fearing. Buhay is also the name of the El Shaddai party-list group that Velarde's son heads.

The 12 senatorial candidates chosen by Velarde supposedly gave their commitment to carry the Buhay party-list group in their own sample ballots.

Velarde said the El Shaddai rally last night was called to pray for credible and honest elections.

"The cloud of doubt over the 2004 (election) still lingers and that should be erased," Velarde said.

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Eduardo D. Go. M.D. BC-HIS is a doctor of medicine, Gov't licensed Hearing Aid Consultant in British Columbia, Canada. Board Certified in Hearing Instruments Sciences by the National Board for Certification in Hearing Instruments Science U.S.A. Qualified member-International Hearing Society, Professional Associate-American Tinnitus Association. Life member-Philippine Medical Association.

Nhicole A. Go, M.Sc. (Aud) - is a graduate of Master of Science in Audiology from the University of Hongkong, Speech Science Degree from the University of British Columbia, Canada.

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EU envoys to observe polls as part of duties

ENVOYS OF MEMber-countries of the European Union will monitor the conduct of Monday's midterm elections to determine if it was fair and honest, an EU ambassador said.

Ambassador Alistair MacDonald, head of the European Commission delegation to the Philippines, told diplomatic reporters during the EU Day celebration in Makati City Wednesday night that the EU itself was not sending an official delegation to observe the elections.

But MacDonald said that some electoral observers who were already in the country were from individual European countries.

"There will also be diplomatic teams of the embassies of the member-states here who, as part of their normal business, will be observing the elections. But there is no official EU monitoring exercise," he said.

MacDonald said the monitoring teams, which include the ambassadors to the Philippines, will only observe the process and will not in any way interfere in the elections.

He said that the monitoring of electoral exercises was not only being done by European diplomats in the Philippines but also in other countries.

"We'll be reaching our own opinions whether the elections were free and fair and we'll be using this as part of our internal analysis but we're not likely to be making any official statement," MacDonald stressed.

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Corrections

IN THE MAY 8 ISSUE, A FRONT-PAGE story - "Gatchalian's 4 sons have virtual lock on Valenzuela"—misstated that Rexlon Gatchalian ran for councilor of Valenzuela City in the 2004 elections. Gatchalian did run that year but for representative of the city's first district - not for councilor. He lost to former Mayor Emmanuel "Bobbit" Carlos.

In the May 10 issue, Manuel L. Quezon III's column—"The Long View"—on page A13 misspelled the first name of the resigned national treasurer. The official's name is Omar—not Imar—Cruz.

In the May 10 issue, a front-page window—"8 Filipinos freed unharmed in Nigeria, arrive today"—misstated the day of arrival in the country of eight Filipinos who were freed recently by their Nigerian kidnappers. The eight were set to return Friday (May 11)—not May 10.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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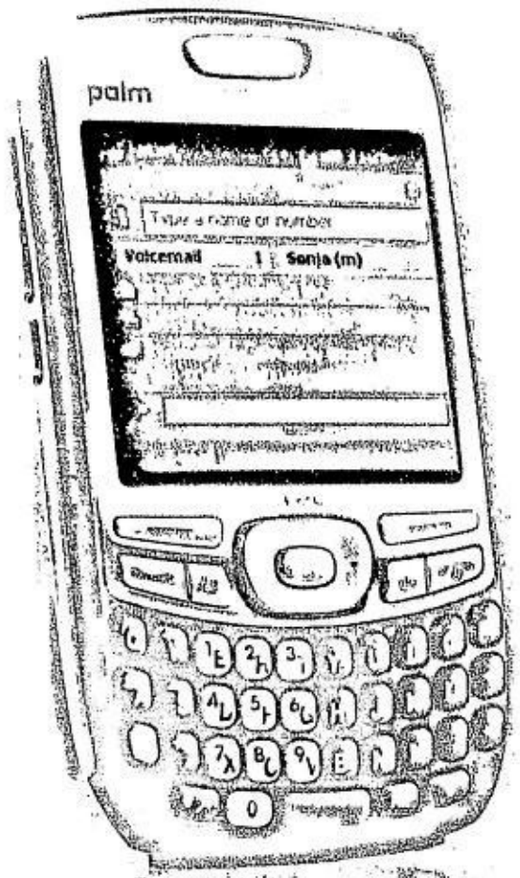

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Secret of Fatima: Move away from path of evil

By Howard J. Q. Dee
Contributor

TODAY, MAY 13, 2007, IS THE 90TH anniversary of Fatima—the day the Blessed Mother appeared to three poor shepherd children near Fatima in Portugal and entrusted to them secret visions.

One vision, kept secret for 83 years, was disclosed by Pope John Paul II during the Jubilee Year 2000. It was a vision of an angel flashing a flaming sword about to scorch the earth when Our Lady prevented him. Pointing to the earth, the angel then cried out: "Penance, penance, penance!"

After John Paul survived an assassination attempt on May 13, 1981, he asked Lucia for her personal interpretation of this particular vision.

Lucia responded in a letter, saying that because mankind did not heed the Blessed Mother's appeal for conversion, it was moving toward the final fulfillment of her warning, which is the "annihilation of nations" in a chastisement of fire. She noted that many of the other prophecies of the Lady of Fatima were fulfilled, among them World War II, the spread of communism, the suffering of the pope, and the persecution of the Church.

Lucia also wrote, "If we have not yet seen the complete fulfillment of the final part of the prophecy, we are going toward it little by little with great strides. If we do not reject the path of sin, hatred, revenge, immorality, violence, injustice, violations of the rights of the human person, especially the poor..."

Herein lies the true secret of Fatima: It shows us the only way left for the survival of civilization.

It is on this note, at the beginning of the new millennium, that the late Holy Father entrusted the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. "Humanity stands at a crossroads. We are the men and women of an extraordinary time, exhilarating yet full of contradictions. Humanity now has the instruments of unprecedented power: We can turn this world into a garden, or reduce it to a pile of rubble."

This battle between good and evil is being fought in our very midst.

I was deeply involved in peace talks with communist Filipinos for seven years, to no avail. I have often asked Our Lady why? Why have you converted the communists in Russia and the whole of Eastern Europe but not in the Philippines? Was it not we Filipinos who started the phenomenon of people power that spread throughout Eastern Europe to bring about the collapse of the Soviet communist empire?

I found the answer to my question in Lucia's letter to the Holy Father: Because we persist in sin against God and humanity, the scourge of communism, rebellion and armed conflict continue in our country.

Going back to the true secret of Fatima, we must move away from our present path of immorality and moral corruption, social and economic injustice, revenge and hatred, violence and violation of human rights, especially of our poor. This is the only true way to national salvation.

It is my personal belief that the Fatima message to mankind, given during the papacy of Pope Benedict XV in 1917, will have its final fulfillment in the pontificate of Pope Benedict XVI, ending the 100 years when Satan is given free rein to sow his wickedness and snares upon God's people as seen by Pope Leo XIII in a vision. This period can end with the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in a new era of peace, as she herself had promised at Fatima.

As a Marian people of God, let us rise up to meet this promise, and claim our prize.

(The author was former ambassador to the Vatican and one-time member of the government panel that held peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines.)

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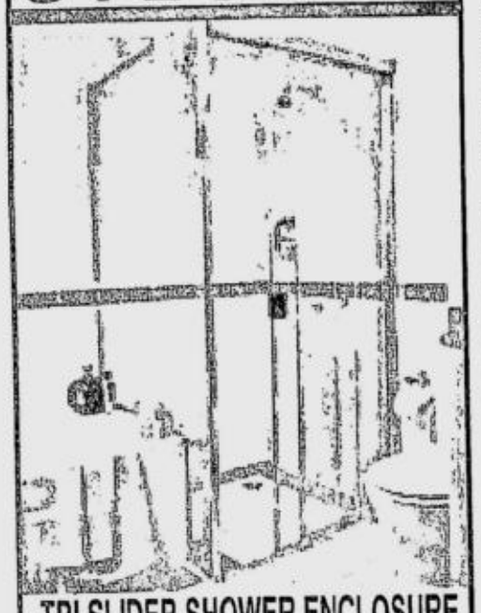
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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, May 13, 2007
6th Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

It is the decision of the Holy Spirit.

Some persons who had come from Judea to Antioch were teaching the brothers in this way, "Unless you are circumcised according to the law of Moses, you cannot be saved."

Because of this there was trouble, and Paul and Barnabas had fierce arguments with them. For Paul told the people to remain as they were when they became believers. Finally those who had come from Jerusalem suggested that Paul and Barnabas and some others go up to Jerusalem to discuss the matter with the apostles and elders.

Then the apostles and elders together with the whole Church decided to choose representatives from among them to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. These were Judas, known as Barsabbas, and Silas, both leading men among the brothers. They took with them the following letter:

"Greetings from the apostles and elders, your brothers, to the believers of non-Jewish birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We have heard that some persons from among us have worried you with their discussions and troubled your peace of mind. They were not appointed by us. But now, it has seemed right to us in an assembly, to choose representatives and to send them to you, along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, who have dedicated their lives to the service of our Lord Jesus Christ. We send you then Judas and Silas who themselves will give you these instructions by word of mouth.

"We, with the Holy Spirit, have decided not to put any other burden on you except what is necessary: You are to abstain from blood from the meat of strangled animals and from prohibited marriages. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell."

2nd Reading: Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

The holy city.

The angel took me up in a spiritual vision to a very high mountain and he showed me the holy city of Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It shines with the glory of God, like a precious jewel with the color of crystal-clear jasper.

Its wall, large and high, has twelve gates; stationed at them are twelve angels. Over the gates are written the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. Three gates face the east; three gates face the north; three gates face the south and three face the west. The city wall stands on twelve foundation stones on which are written the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw no temple in the city for the Lord God, Master of the universe, and the Lamb are themselves its temple. The city has no need of the light of the sun or the moon, since God's Glory is its light and the Lamb is its lamp.

Gospel: John 14:23-29

The Holy Spirit will teach you.

Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word and my Father will love him; and we will come to him and make a room in his home. But if anyone does not love me, he will not keep my words, and these words that you hear are not mine but the Father's who sent me.

"I told you all this while I was still with you. From now on the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of all that I have told you.

"Peace be with you; I give you my peace. Not as the world gives peace do I give it to you. Do not be troubled; do not be afraid. You heard me say: 'I am going away, but I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

I have told you this now before it takes place, so that when it does happen you may believe."

Commentary

The Church needs to hear often that we are to lay no burden on believers beyond what is strictly necessary and that the Holy Spirit decides what is needed—based on the words of Jesus. Those who cause dissension by demanding their own agenda must be pointed out as those who cause disturbance, and those who preach the gospel must be acknowledged as those belonging to and are under the power of the Lord and the Spirit. Again, when we get bogged down in details and laws/customs/traditions we tend to forget the vision of what we have been given to share and to live—that there is no temple in the city. The Lord, God, the Almighty is its temple and he and the Lamb are its light and life.

Our God is the Trinity and if we are true to the Word of Jesus then God the Father comes and dwells within us. And if we take this Word to heart, the Spirit, the Paraclete will be sent to us in the name of Jesus to instruct us, remind us, and teach us-but most especially to bring us the peace of Christ that is Jesus' gift to us. This peace is given so that we may not be distressed or fearful, or racked with dissenters, but that we live as one in God, the Trinity.

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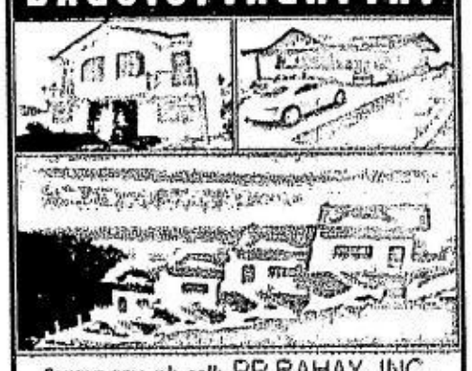

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Bulusan spews 4-km ash plume, covers 14 villages

JUBAN, SORSOgon—Bulusan volcano spewed ash into the air yesterday, blanketing 14 villages with the powdery substance, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology reported.

Bulusan shot a 4-kilometer plume of ash into the air, scattering particles 6 kms around the 1,565-meter-high volcano, Phivolcs said in a statement.

It said that three days before yesterday's 10:30 a.m. ash explosion, there was a noticeable increase in the daily number of volcanic earthquakes and smoke emissions of moderate to voluminous quantities.

There were no reports of casualties or damage and no order for residents to evacuate, civil defense officials said.

Despite the ash explosion, Bulusan is not yet in a dangerous state but the residents should be on alert for "life threatening volcanic flows," Phivolcs said.

It warned villagers to stay out of the 4-km "permanent danger zone" around the volcano since the area was at risk from sudden ash explosions.

Bella Tubianosa, resident volcanologist at Phivolcs' Bulusan station, said the barangays affected by the explosion experienced heavy ash fall measuring 10 millimeters thick.

Bobby Q. Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon, and AFP

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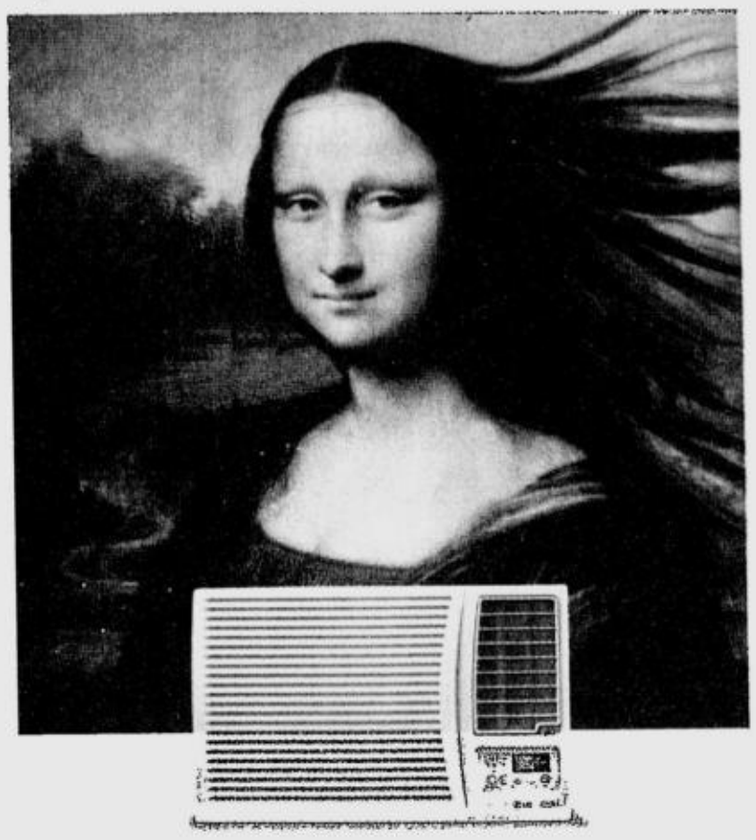

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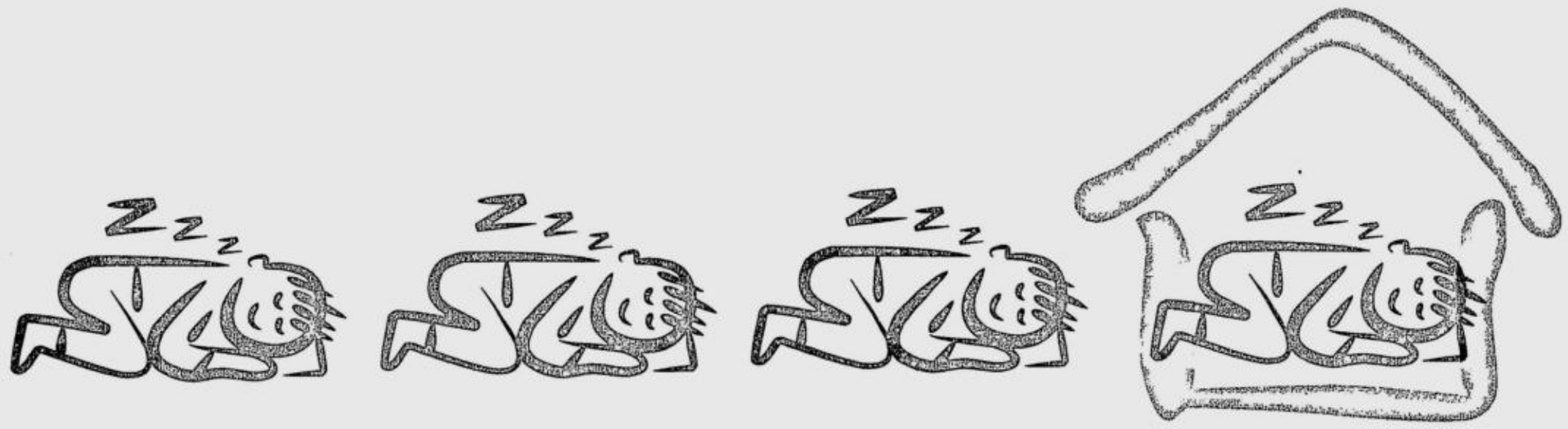

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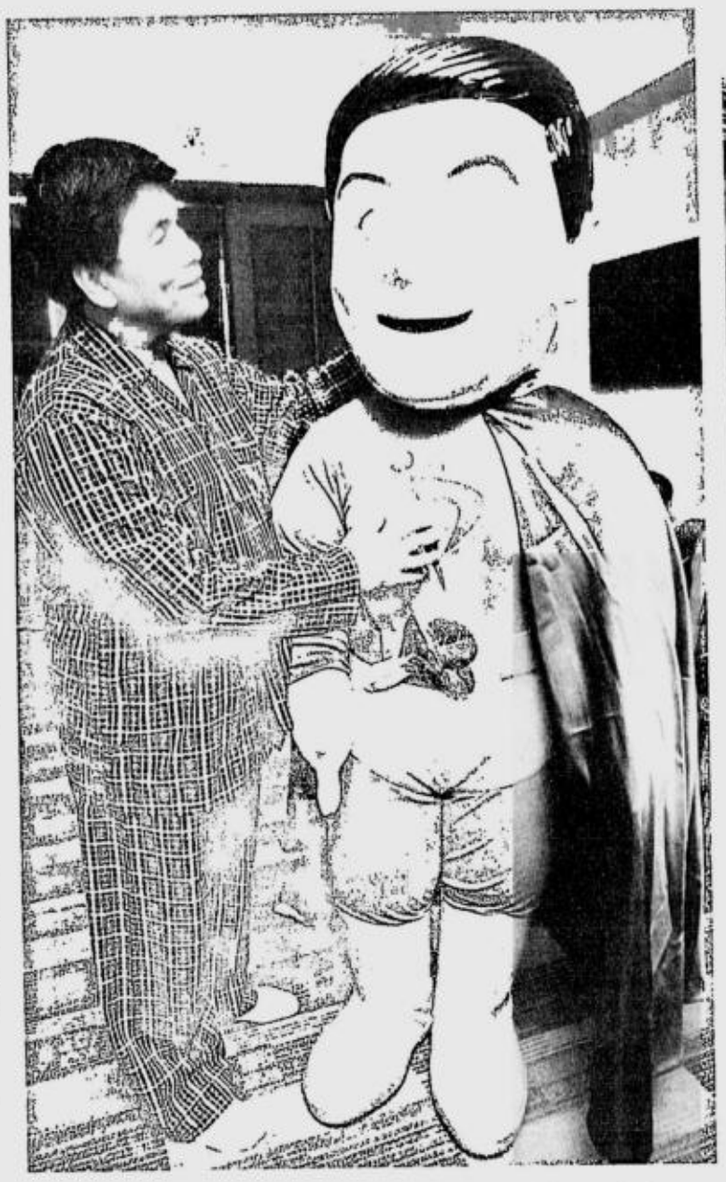
THE CAMPAIGN THAT WAS

An election period is often referred to as the "silly season." For good reason. Consider candidates who are more often than not city-slickers kissing babies with drippy noses, bottle-feeding a tiger, cradling a crocodile while smiling (broadly yet), hugging sweaty women of all shapes and sizes, mounting carabaos for a spin around the town plaza, dancing at the drop of a "boom-tarat-tarat," chopping sugarcane kung-fu style, and other such exertions of the highly amusing kind.

IT'S FINER AND MORE FUN, TOO, for Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson to join a race on a Segway in his hometown than to be in the senatorial race. But the die is cast.

LEONCIO BALBIN/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON



THE CAPED CRUSADER, well, sort of: Prospero Pichay made five look-alike mascots, each costing P40,000, which join the Team Unity sorties when the candidate can't be there in the flesh. LYN RILLON

DANCE-O-RAMA: Migz Zubiri dances with supporters to the tune of his "Boom-tarat-tarat" campaign jingle on arrival at the Tagbilaran pier in Bohol. LYN RILLON

EASY RIDER: Senate President Manny Villar boards a trolley to meet as many voters as possible living along the railway in Tunasan, Muntinlupa. CESAR TOMAMBO/CONTRIBUTOR

Nation goes to polls on a wing and a prayer

From page A1

the campaign to hold everything aloft.

The prayer—mainly for HOPE, or honest, orderly and peaceful elections—will be supplied by millions of the faithful who are heeding the call of Catholic bishops, evangelical church leaders and Muslim leaders.

Some 38 million voters, or 86 percent of the 45 million registered, have told pollsters that they intend to vote because their votes will determine the kind of government they will get.

That's 17 of every 20 registered voters. And 16 of the 20 (or 8 out of 10) said they would follow their conscience, not political machinery, in voting for the public good, not personal gain.

Still, that leaves 2 out of 10 voters who said they would follow what their leaders (political, religious, military, etc.) say. This is the segment that is causing the biggest worry—and the biggest controversy—among candidates and political strategists.

Twenty percent of the 38 million voters is still a good 7.6 million votes—more than enough to spell the difference between winning and losing.

Command votes?

The last senatorial survey, done on May 2-4, showed a gap of only 10 percent between Juan Miguel Zubiri, No. 9 with 33 percent, and Sonia Roco, No. 19 with 23 percent. Joker Arroyo, No. 12, had 31 percent.

This means that everybody else in between—Vicente Sotto III (28 percent), Aquilino Pimentel III (26 percent), Michael Defensor (25 percent), Antonio Trillanes IV (25 percent), Prospero Pichay Jr. (24 percent) and Cesar Montano (23 percent)—still have a cracking good chance of making it if they can get their hands on at least half, or even a fourth, of the so-called command votes.

The Iglesia ni Cristo alone, which is reputed to vote as a bloc, commands at least two million votes. And there are also Mike Velarde's El Shaddai and the Jesus Is Lord movement, although both admit to having less faithful followers.

It remains to be seen if the much-vaunted political machinery can in fact deliver command votes. But a dispassionate look at the political configuration of the incumbent governors, mayors and congressmen who are running for reelection would seem to confirm that the Genuine Opposition is facing a rout at the local level.

Throwing in the towel

In a press conference last April 30, GO spokesperson Adel Tamano all but conceded opposition defeat at the local polls.

At most, Tamano said, GO could win 40 congressional seats from the 140 candidates it fielded—80 short of the 220 seats up for grabs. (The Institute for Popular Democracy said its study showed that GO would win only 35 seats.)

"Definitely, we will not reach the number needed to impeach the President," Tamano said.

The opposition's prospects look even bleaker in the other local contests.

The seven parties forming the administration coalition headed by Lakas-CMD and Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) control 77 governors, 194 congressmen, 115 city mayors, and over 1,200 municipal mayors. More than half of these incumbents are seeking reelection.

Team Unity strategists say they will grab seats for 78 governors, 199 congressmen and 25 city mayors.

Worse, GO has no candidates in 60-80 percent of the electable positions. It is losing the local polls more by default than by design.

Surprising lessons

TU candidate Edgardo Angara, who is running for reelection, was a highly successful corporate lawyer before he became an educator and senator. He still knows his numbers.

"After we circumnavigated the whole of Mindanao, my fearless forecast is it's going to be 9-2-1 in favor of Team Unity," Angara said. "12-0 is rhetoric, but that rhetoric is close to reality here in Mindanao than in any other part of the country."

He said his fearless forecast was based on GO's inability to mount a nationwide campaign for lack of funds.

Zubiri is an example of how Angara's mathematics works. In the latest survey, Zubiri is a loser in Luzon, but he is No. 2 in Mindanao and No. 4 in the Visayas.

That adds up to 9th overall. Mindanao has 12 million voters.

Zubiri's phenomenal rise from relative obscurity to sure winner is one of the surprising lessons of the past campaign.

From a 16th-17th ranking at the start of the 90-day campaign period, he was stuck in the same slot a month later despite a popular "Boom Tarat Tarat" jingle.

The survey in April showed Zubiri had jumped a phenomenal three slots to 14th, and this month to an even more remarkable 9th-10th place tie with Gregorio Honasan.

What did it

How did Zubiri do it?

By his account, he scrapped his jingle because it had done its job to introduce him to voters. Then he shifted to a bandwagon-type commercial similar to the look and feel of Sen. Mar Roxas' highly rated TV ad in the 2004 senatorial race.

"The commercial did it," Zubiri explained simplistically. Of course, even if he knew the secret of his success, he would not tell.

The more obvious moves were: He got celebrity endorsers, and he threw in more money for commercials that talked issues.

What was less obvious was his personal organization, which went to work very successfully in the Visayas and Mindanao, his strong areas. The surveys later confirmed this.

Former President Corazon Aquino's tongue-in-cheek endorsement is likewise credited for the stunning jump of her son, Benigno Aquino III, to No. 6 in the surveys.

In comparison, Pimentel and Defensor have remained virtually in the same slots, while Pichay and Trillanes, an accused coup plotter, have jumped five to nine places.

Will their momentum carry them through? Only the election results will say.

The lackluster performance of political brand names like (Tessie) Oreta, (Nikki) Coseteng, (Vic) Magsaysay, (John) Osmeña, (Luis) Singson, and Roco has demonstrated that name recall alone will not do it.

Neither will celebrity alone do it for actors Montano, Richard Gomez and Victor Wood. Nor heavy advertising spending alone do it for many of them.

What the past campaign showed is that a candidate has to have all of the above, and above all of them, substance.

Witness Loren Legarda, Manny Villar, Francis Escudero, Francis Pangilinan, Panfilo Lacson, Ralph Recto, Alan Cayetano, Honasan and Arroyo—all frontrunners who have apparently found the right formula.

Future agenda

The controversy over the names of the party-list nominees and the lack of laws governing political dynasties exposed glaring deficiencies in the Constitution that have to be taken up, together with much-needed reform in the judicial, electoral and economic provisions.

This early, the discredited Sigaw ng Bayan has announced it would again launch a people's initiative to amend the Constitution, notwithstanding a Supreme Court ruling throwing out its first attempt as a "gigantic fraud" and a "grand deception."

It would also be foolhardy for the next Congress to try to amend the Charter through a constituent assembly, which was more massively repudiated by the public than the people's initiative.

The more workable route seems to be a constitutional convention, although this would cost billions of pesos and a lot of energy. But do not be surprised if this happens before the presidential election in 2010.

It will all depend on what kind of mandate the administration gets in tomorrow's elections, and which party comes out dominant.

The real struggle in the current campaign is between Lakas and Kampi. This is why Jose de Venecia is waging the fight of his life in the fourth district of Pangasinan.

Former Sen. Heherson Alvarez, a Lakas stalwart, has summed it up succinctly: What is at stake in Pangasinan is not only whether De Venecia will be reelected in his district but also whether he will retain the speakership of the House. There lies the future of Charter change.

Occasions of courage

In the cacophony of the campaign, there were shining occasions of moral courage.

The crusade against "moral decay" launched by the charismatic Fr. Eddie Panlilio in seeking the governorship of Pampanga has fired the imagination of many. The priest has offered a viable alternative to two traditional politicians, and he may just make it.

Kapatiran's Martin Bautista, Zosimo Paredes and Adrian Sison bravely soldiered on, steadfast in the belief that even as the battle is lost, a new generation of politicians will take up the torch and the flame will burn even brighter to light the path to a brave new world.

A neophyte politician, lawyer Damaso Bangaoet Jr., blazed a trail into cyberspace with a laptop computer, a PowerPoint presentation, and an LCD projector in running for mayor of the town of Tomay in Benguet. He used the magic of a million color pixels in presenting his dream for the town.

Hoping to create a generation of educated voters, Gino Nacianceno, 22, and a group of friends formed iVote.ph, a nonprofit and nonpartisan website that serves as an online voters' guide.

Fr. Albert Alejo, a social anthropologist, launched an electoral reform movement called Ehem, whose battlecry "Walang Hihingi!" exhorts voters not to ask for favors from politicians.

"Good citizens choose good candidates," the Jesuit said. "Don't [be] neutral."

Light moments

And there were also light moments.

To boost his visibility, Pichay made a larger-than-life mascot of himself that went around regaling voters. He also employed nontraditional means of communicating his name, like using a raft to carry a campaign billboard.

Coseteng reminded future candidates to drink plenty of water and apply more sunscreen on the campaign trail.

And Legarda, a stress-binger, confessed to have gained at least 10 pounds.

The author is chief executive officer of the Institute for Policy Research and Strategic Studies, an independent nongovernment think tank. For comments, e-mail mibc2006@gmail.com.

'Da King' lives, endorses GO in 'miting de avance'

From page A1

Pasay City to endorse the 11 candidates handpicked by deposed President Joseph Estrada for the Senate.

But before he went on stage, program hosts Pilita Corrales and Ariel Ureta worked the audience by introducing him as "Da King."

The crowd was momentarily stunned but when Guerrero appeared wearing the late action star's trademark denim pants, jacket and dark glasses, some people broke into knowing chuckles.

Guerrero was able to overcome the initial awkwardness by using Poe's famous lines from his movies like: *"Hindi ka na sisikatan ng araw* (The sun won't shine on you anymore)" and *"Isang bala ka lang* (One bullet is all it'll take)" which drew laughter from the audience.

Next best thing

Some senatorial and local candidates, as well as party officials, on stage also appeared amused.

Guerrero sang Nonoy Zuñiga's "Doon Lang," and Frank Sinatra's "My Way" but with the lyrics changed.

He said the second song was his own creation and was dedicated to Poe's memory.

After Guerrero's number, not one of the senatorial candidates, who each gave a speech, made a comment on the appearance of "Da King."

The endorsement from an FPJ impersonator was quite possibly the next best thing the GO ticket could get from the Poe family.

Staying away

Until the end, FPJ's widow, Susan Roces, chose to stay away from the GO senatorial ticket during their three-month long campaign.

Roces was invited by the miting de avance organizers to join the candidates and former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Estrada (who delivered a taped message) on stage.

The miting de avance was organized by Estrada's media team, not the team of GO campaign manager Sen. Sergio Osmeña III.

Aquino appeared on stage to give support to her son, Benigno "Noynoy" III, who is running for the Senate for the first time.

Only Chiz

She, however, did not give a speech. Only the GO candidates gave speeches. They included the senatorial candidates and three opposition mayoral candidates in Metro Manila, namely, Jejomar Binay in Makati, Sen. Alfredo Lim in Manila and Peewee Trinidad in Pasay City.

Roces, meanwhile, has only endorsed Sorsogon Rep. Francis "Chiz" Escudero among the GO candidates.

Escudero served as Poe's spokesperson in his 2004 presidential campaign.

Roces also showed up at the proclamation rally of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, who served as one of her husband's campaign managers.

Roces declined the invitation to join Aquino and GO candidate Sonia Roco at Mass at the Malate Church on Friday afternoon, before the miting de avance.

GO campaign officials had earlier announced that Roces was expected to join the two other widows.

In bad taste

The use of an FPJ impersonator for the intermission did not sit well with campaign handlers at the GO headquarters in Makati City.

They apparently found the use of FPJ's image in bad taste.

"I was actually happy that Susan Roces did not attend [the miting de avance] because I don't think she would have been happy seeing the FPJ impersonator," said campaign spokesperson Adel Tamano, who works with Osmeña's team at the GO headquarters.

Internet gambling ring coursing funds through RP busted

WASHINGTON—Seven persons and four companies were indicted on charges of conspiring to violate a United States ban on Internet gambling by disguising the credit card charges, officials said Friday.

The 34-count indictment handed down in Salt Lake City, Utah, said the defendants ran a scheme to circumvent a US law passed last year that prohibits US banks and credit card companies from processing Internet bets.

According to the indictment, the funds were wired through Western Union to people in the Philippines who were associated with the defendants and then transferred back to the gaming sites through a service the operators called "the Gateway."

The indictment alleged the defendants facilitated the payment of more than $150 million to Internet gambling websites in violation of a US ban on online betting.

"Virtually all Internet gambling is illegal" under US law, US Attorney Brett Tolman said in announcing the indictments.

"Individuals and businesses that facilitate illegal Internet gambling are violating numerous federal and state laws. Payment processors who attempt to hide the true nature of the transactions they are conducting and the Internet gambling websites that use these payment processors will be prosecuted and brought to justice."

The defendants are charged with racketeering conspiracy, bank fraud, violations of the wire-wager act and money laundering.

The individuals charged were from Las Vegas. They were identified as Baron Lombardo, 46; Richard Carson-Selman, 51; Henry Bankey, 49; Francisco Lombardo, 52; Count Lombardo, 43; Tina Hill, 32, and Kimberlie Lombardo, 43.

The Filipinos were not identified and it was not known if Philippine authorities were in on the investigation.

US authorities are also seeking forfeiture of $150 million as well as real estate, vehicles and funds in numerous bank accounts.

Investigators said the scheme "purposefully misclassified credit card transactions to fool banks into processing Internet gambling charges" and thus allowed bettors in the US to spend money on the gambling websites.

Some of the charges carry penalties of up to 30 years in prison.

The companies charged included a Canadian-based sport betting firm and a company based in the British Virgin Islands, according to the US Department of Justice.

The companies named included the payment processing firms CurrenC Ltd. of the British Virgin Islands and Utah-based Gateway Technologies and Hill Financial Services, along with the Canadian-registered wagering site BetUS. *AFP*

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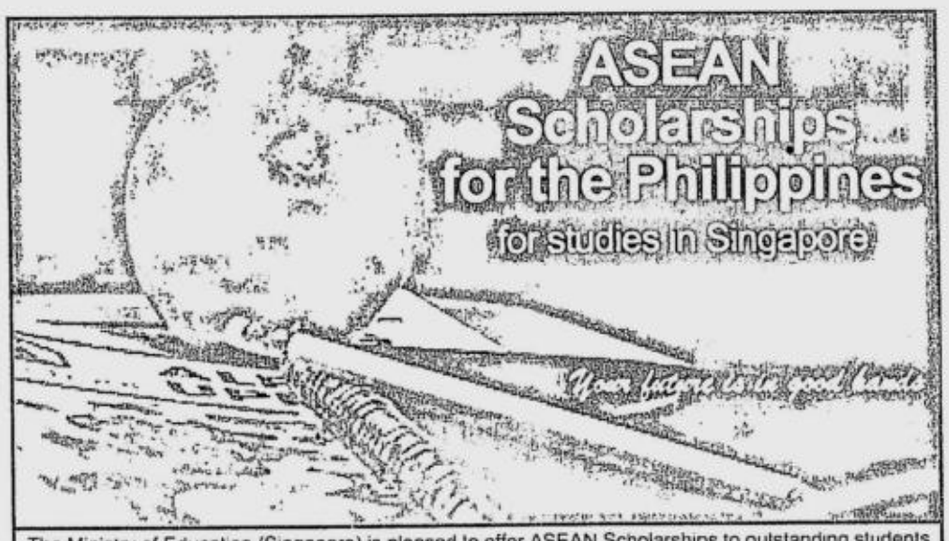

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Helen Gamboa: Why she left for US and other controversies

From page A1

She recalled that in the early part of the campaign, she had joined her husband and entire family on different sorties. "I did *palengke* (market) tours in many parts of Metro Manila and nearby provinces. I had gone as far as Mindanao."

Gamboa said she enjoyed the sorties and had no qualms about going on market tours on her own.

In his place

In the Sotto family, it is not uncommon for members to pinch-hit for one who is unavailable.

"I usually go to rallies and sorties that my husband cannot go to. Even our four children substitute for him," Gamboa said.

She insisted that she didn't mind when she was asked to sing and dance in rallies. "I like entertaining people, too. But I don't think I'm expected to perform at rallies anymore. [More often], people request Ciara to sing."

In a lot of ways, Gamboa and her children are no strangers to the rigors of the campaign trail.

"This is the fourth time that my husband is running for a government position. Once for vice mayor of Quezon City (in 1988) and twice for senator (in 1992 and 1998) and this year again for the Senate," she said.

Changes

Gamboa considers herself a veteran on the campaign trail. Nevertheless, she was still surprised by the changes in the political landscape.

"What makes this campaign season different is the political climate. People are more divided and polarized," she observed. "There is no question about it that campaign tactics have become dirtier and more malicious compared to past elections."

She decried "the lies that are being spread via text messages, along with the vicious campaign ads."

Sotto's decision to run under the administration's Team Unity ticket had incurred the ire of his former colleagues in the opposition. Sotto, along with former oppositionists-turned-administration candidates Edgardo Angara and Tessie Aquino-Oreta, were criticized in a "negative" campaign jingle titled "ASO"—after the trio's acronym. ASO means dog in the vernacular.

Gamboa simply shrugged off the criticism.

"God knows what's in our hearts. That's why we are all able to remain secure and unaffected," she said.

Helen vs Sharon?

Another potential controversy involves Gamboa's niece, singer-actress Sharon Cuneta, whose husband Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan is also vying for a seat in the Senate. Cuneta is the daughter of former Pasay City Mayor Pablo Cuneta and Elaine Gamboa-Cuneta, Gamboa's eldest sister.

Once again, Cuneta and Gamboa's respective husbands are on opposite sides of the political fence.

During the 2004 presidential campaign, Pangilinan supported President Macapagal-Arroyo's candidacy, while Sotto was the campaign manager of her rival, Fernando Poe Jr.

In this senatorial race, however, Sotto is on Ms Arroyo's team, while Pangilinan is running as an independent.

Does politics cause friction between Gamboa and Cuneta?

Drug controversy

"Tito and I treat Sharon like our own child. She's really our eldest child. Politics can never affect us or in any way change the way we feel toward one another. Kiko and Tito worked together in the Senate for many years. Their political differences never caused problems for our family in the past," Gamboa said.

When the going gets tough, Gamboa said her family would always turn to a tried-and-tested solution.

"There's really no intrigue or problem that we've encountered as a family that we weren't able to handle through prayers," she explained. "We are a prayerful family. We have weekly Bible study sessions at home. Whatever trials come our way, we are able to overcome through our belief in the infinite love and wisdom of the Lord."

In an earlier interview with Parents magazine, Gamboa confided that the toughest storm they had to weather as a family was when Sotto was "implicated in a drug controversy in 1997."

"It was pure and simple black propaganda. That was the worst. My husband had been doing everything to solve the drug problem and [instead of being congratulated] he was accused of being a drug lord coddler," she told Parents magazine in 2000.

Surviving the crisis

Gamboa recalled that the family survived that crisis by staying united. "Eventually, the tide turned and my husband was exonerated."

In her e-mail to the INQUIRER, she stressed that her husband "is a hard-working senator who attended to his legislative work for two terms. His track record speaks for itself. He authored and passed many important laws. He voted according to his conscience and he sincerely wants to make our country a better place for our children and grandchildren."

In the same vein, unity could solve the country's problems, she added. Going on the campaign trail this year taught her that lesson: "I realized that our country really needs to unite, [in order to] move forward. People in the countryside simply want their lives to improve and they are tired of political bickering."

NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOW BIZ: 'Eat Bulaga' stalwarts Vic Sotto and Jose Manalo surprise Tito Sotto during Team Unity's last rally in Cebu City. LYN RILLON

One last controversy that hounds her husband is his background as comedian and TV host (on the noontime variety show "Eat Bulaga"). He is often lumped together with other celebrities-turned-politicians who, according to critics, have no business running for public office.

"I think those comments are generalizations. A person with vision, clear legislative agenda and good track record, coupled with a sincere and honest desire to make a difference in people's lives, has every right to run for public office—whatever his profession may be," Gamboa said.

She stressed that being a celebrity alone would not ensure election victory.

"Being a celebrity helps in terms of making people more aware [of a candidate's programs and platform]. But I think that, in the end, track record is more crucial in convincing voters to support a certain candidate," she concluded.

Sunshine Cruz: My life is upside down, on call 24/7

From page A1

have had the chance to meet and talk to Joker Arroyo, Ed Angara and their wives. They're so intelligent. I felt as if I had no choice but to give my best," she says.

Public speaking

Soon enough, Cruz got used to public speaking.

"My friends from Cebu were surprised when I gave a talk at the Farmers' Congress. They never thought I could do that. That's why I'm thankful that Buboy is running because it has also allowed me to grow—in my own little way," she narrates.

Montano's manager, Norma Japitana, is amazed at how Cruz readily took on the responsibilities of a politician's wife, even with very little preparation. "She's a revelation," Japitana says.

It was a 180-degree turn, Cruz insists.

These days, you'd most probably catch her on the cell phone—chatting with prospective donors, haggling with suppliers and giving interviews.

"I'm on call, 24-7. Whenever Buboy can't make it to a provincial sortie, I am sent to pinch-hit," she explains.

Losing sleep, weight

There are days when she'd stay up until 4 a.m. so she can prepare his clothes and other necessities. "I'd only sleep for a few hours and then go back to work again. Every minute counts. My mind can't stop thinking of the campaign. Sometimes I even have dreams about the campaign."

Like Montano who has lost 10 pounds, Cruz has also shed some weight because of the demands of the campaign. "I've lost seven pounds. But I was underweight to start with."

Cruz is unequivocal: "I'll do anything for Buboy."

For example: "My husband has asked me to take charge of the campaign funds. Who else can he trust but his own wife?"

She also holds the purse strings at home and in their movie production company, CM Films.

She admits that the campaign has been financially tough for her husband. "We're not as rich as the other candidates. He's the thriftiest candidate."

How much have the Montanos spent so far?

"Let me put it this way—we could've produced one movie with our expenses so far," Cruz says.

One million posters

She clarifies: "A candidate spends P1 per newsprint poster. A million newsprint posters, which is still not enough, cost P1 million. It's a huge expense."

Posters are just a small fraction of the total campaign expenditures, Cruz says. "We are also maintaining our headquarters [in Quezon City]. We are also paying for the salaries of our staff."

She is stunned by the high cost of running for a Senate seat.

"It's challenging, but I'm thankful to our friends who've sent shirts, caps and other campaign materials. I'm also grateful to Malacañang because their donation allowed us to come out with a few TV ads. That's a big help."

Cruz confesses that she has resorted to haggling with suppliers, to get the best price. "Effective *naman*. My being a celebrity helped me get a 50-percent discount once."

Turning down offers

When money becomes tight, Cruz taps her own savings. "I'd rather use my own money than touch my children's savings or bother my husband with every small expense. He could do without that kind of pressure."

Since the Montanos are having a hard time making ends meet, she is deeply hurt by the rumor alleging that they're using the purported P200-million donation from Malacañang in the construction of a new mansion.

"That's unfair. We've hired an accountant and every single centavo is recorded. Everyone knows *naman* that Cesar was earning well before he joined politics. We don't look at the campaign as a fund-raising project. Cesar had to quit working *pa nga* because of his senatorial bid," she says.

It was reported that Montano gave up P30-million worth of endorsements, movie and television deals.

"Actually, he sacrificed more than P30 million. At least two ads [for cell phone and coffee creamer companies] were put on hold. He had to resign from [the GMA 7 adventure show] 'Lupin.' He also had to turn down an offer from ABS-CBN," Cruz says.

Controversies

The issue of campaign funds seems tame compared to other election-related intrigues thrown at the Montanos.

One controversy pitted Cruz against cousin Sheryl Cruz and Susan Roces, widow of actor-turned presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr.

Intrigue-mongers claim that Montano is not being supported by the movie industry—specifically, by oppositionist Susan and her niece Sheryl.

"I am embarrassed to *Tita* Susan. FPJ was our *ninong* (godparent) at our wedding in 2000. I will never disrespect anybody from the industry—especially not *Tita* Susan. As for Sheryl, I cannot force anybody to campaign for my husband. Even though we had a misunderstanding in the past, we are still first cousins. In time, I am confident that we'll be able to iron out our differences," Cruz says.

Buboy vs Goma

Montano also had a heated exchange with fellow actor-turned-senatorial candidate Richard Gomez.

Quick recap: After Montano allegedly criticized Gomez for his tax-evasion case, Gomez supposedly retaliated by bringing up Montano's love child with former actress Teresa Loyzaga and his failure to provide support.

"With regard to Teresa and her son, I wouldn't want to comment [on that] because it's something very personal and there is a proper time and venue to discuss that issue," Cruz says. "*Basta* I cannot fault Cesar when it comes to being a father to our three daughters. He is really hands-on when it comes to parenting. He loves all his children."

In an earlier interview with the INQUIRER, Lucy Torres, Gomez's wife, was asked about the Montano-Gomez word war. Torres said she hoped the controversy would soon be put to rest.

"I've always found Lucy to be sweet and lovely," Cruz says of Torres. "Since we share the same obstetrician-gynecologist, we often see each other in our doctor's parties. I cannot say anything negative about Lucy."

Senator's wife

As for Torres' husband?

"I don't know Richard that well ... I just hope that this misunderstanding will soon be fixed ... As I've always said, Buboy is just a text or phone call away. If they wanted to clarify anything, they could've gotten in touch with him first before airing personal matters in public," Cruz says.

If Montano wins, would he be able to handle the work, not to mention the debates in the Senate?

Cruz says she has the utmost faith in her husband. "When he enters any field, be it painting or producing, he gives it his best. I'm certain he'll prove to everyone that he can excel in public service."

Is Cruz ready to be a senator's wife?

"If I was able to handle the campaign, being a senator's wife would be a lot easier," she says. "Even if he chooses to be a carpenter, I'd be behind him all the way."

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Team Unity: We will do better than surveys say

THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION is confident its Team Unity can do better than what the surveys are saying after Filipino voters cast their ballots in the midterm elections tomorrow.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's political adviser, Gabriel Claudio, said the national pre-election surveys simply did not consider the administration's vaunted nationwide machinery, religious endorsements and overwhelming number of local candidates which could deliver the victory to the TU candidates.

"Everything is in place and we're more upbeat now than when the campaign began. The scenario being painted by the surveys is remote and we can get much more than what the surveys say," Claudio said.

He said the results of the pre-election surveys of Social Weather Stations and Pulse Asia which showed more Genuine Opposition candidates would make it to the winning circle than TU would be proven wrong when the administration advantage goes into full swing during the election tomorrow.

Claudio said that after a very successful nationwide campaign by TU which received vigorous support from local officials and constituents, TU also won the endorsement of major religious groups such as the Iglesia ni Cristo and El Shaddai. The INC will reportedly endorse six candidates from TU, five from GO and one independent, while El Shaddai leader Bro. Mariano "Mike" Velarde endorsed five from TU, five from GO and two independent candidates.

Claudio said TU will also ride on the strength of its nationwide machinery, which includes the network of local officials belonging to the administration. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Sonia's fun run: Shed . . .

From page A1

and tell her that the man she was looking for actually died in August 2005, Roco assured her: "He's taking a rest."

During another sortie, one voter wondered aloud: "Why are you the one running this time? Has the senator's term ended?"

Sonia was also once asked: "Is the secretary coming here, too?" (Raul Roco was a onetime education secretary.)

"Some of them think he's still alive," Roco said during an interview with INQUIRER editors and reporters late Thursday.

Those who knew that Raul Roco is gone would cry upon seeing his widow.

Cooperatives, nongovernment organizations and individuals who think they personally benefited from or were somehow affected by her husband's work as a legislator have naturally gravitated to Sonia Roco.

P5K gift

Just last Monday, for instance, a man who looked far from prosperous approached her team and "donated P5,000 in cash" to her campaign even though he himself appeared to have a more urgent need for the money.

The man insisted that Roco take it, recalling how the late senator had helped him get his SSS pension.

"I'm not using that money. I'm having it mounted and framed out of deep appreciation," she said.

Money, or more precisely the lack of it, marks the difference between Roco's campaign and that of most of the other candidates who have been giving away shirts, bags, stickers and other goodies.

Roco can only afford to hand out pocket calendars. Once, the team managed to distribute cardboard fans and aprons to market vendors, but only because someone had donated the items.

Her campaign entourage is composed of friends of the family rather than paid yes-men.

Her mostly female campaigners, veterans from Raul's election campaigns, wear floral shirts in bright red and yellow. A supporter apparently made a trip to the Divisoria textile bargain market, bought a roll of red floral fabric, and gave each rah-rah girl enough yardage to make into a blouse or vest.

Among the lessons that Roco—a onetime teacher and magna cum laude graduate from St. Joseph's College—says she has learned from the campaign is the "legal yet immoral" leeway that the Commission on Elections gives senatorial candidates concerning how much they can spend on their campaigns.

"With the poverty that's around us, you're still allowed to spend as much as P120 million [at P3 pesos per voter]?" she asked.

She also wonders at how the Comelec arrived at this figure, noting that organizing just one political rally would cost at least P600,000, and a 30-second TV ad on prime time already requires P250,000.

She believes the paucity of Roco television ads probably caused her to slide down in the last Social Weather Stations survey of May 2 to 4, where she tied with actor Cesar Montano of the administration Team Unity at No. 18-19, on the far side of the Magic 12.

Weak in Visayas, Mindanao

While she admits to being "weak" in the Visayas and Mindanao, Roco noted that she also campaigned quite actively in many areas there but the press unfortunately failed to follow her.

In this regard, she has realized that media do tend to play favorites. She noted how journalists would interview a whole bunch of candidates yet only air footage or write only of a few, capturing merely a fragment of their statements.

But for those who managed to catch Roco's message in full, they have probably heard her lament: "How come we're said to be the No. 1 Christian country in Asia yet we are also the most corrupt?"

"I think that is where we should look [at the problem]. If we want to bring down corruption, then we should make our Christian life work—what you say [as a Christian] is really what you do."

She assailed politicians who engage in "doublespeak," or those "already caught doing something wrong and yet insisting that their conscience is clear. I don't think we should save face that way."

Asked whether her husband, before he died, conveyed the wish that she carry on with his mission by running for public office herself, Roco said what the late senator—considered by many as "the Best President the Country Never Had"—told her in farewell was that "I have scattered the seeds of change."

Whether Sonia Roco gets to cultivate those seeds as a senator of the Republic will be up to the 45.5 million Filipino voters tomorrow.

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How to cheat

WHEN PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO announced, on Rizal Day in 2002, that she would not contest the presidential election of 2004, she said she would "devote the last year and a half" of her administration to implementing three legacy initiatives: "strengthening" the economy, "healing the deep divisions within our society" and working for "clean and honest" elections.

She was particularly eloquent on the issue of fair elections. "My reading [of] the political winds tells me that the 2004 election may well go down in history as among our most bitterly contested elections ever. This is because of the deep social and political division that we now have."

EDITORIAL

Ten days later, during the traditional New Year's toast for the country's diplomatic community, the President summarized the legacy of election reform succinctly: "I expect to see the cleanest and most orderly elections at the end of my term."

It did not turn out that way. Instead, her warning about a bitter contest proved prescient. Worse, the country's election system remains in dire need of cleaning up, of top-to-bottom reform. When we go to the polls tomorrow, we will all be haunted by this President's signal failure; for the briefest of moments, a President actually understood one of the root causes for our democracy's lack of maturity, and sought to do something about it.

Ms Arroyo has since turned her back on election reform. Presidential rhetoric notwithstanding, she has refused to take the necessary steps to restore public confidence in the Commission on Elections and modernize the 2007 vote. She has failed to add her voice to the public clamor for the chairman of the Comelec to resign; she has failed to appoint the seventh member of the Comelec; she has failed to censure or punish the military generals implicated in the Garcillano wiretaps; she has failed to stop the prostitution of the party-list law. These and other failures are telltale signs that election reform is no longer in her best interests. In fact, they confirm public suspicion that she herself is compromised, caught in the tangled web our election system weaves. Think about it: If she did not need to cheat, why is election reform no longer on her agenda?

It is for this reason that, contrary to the legal principle of regularity which the Arroyo administration invokes ad nauseam to defend itself on controversial decisions, we believe that the opposite principle actually operates during elections. We assume—we must assume—that the principle of irregularity attends the conduct of the vote.

On voters' registration, for example: A look at the interactive Google Map available on Inquirer.net shows that some of the traditionally vulnerable-to-fraud areas enjoyed a suspiciously high increase in new voters between 2004 and 2007, while traditionally oppositionist Metro Manila suffered an unusual decline. We must assume that this is already a form of cheating.

On military involvement in the polls: The disclosure that the Army has forced its soldiers to vote uniformly, and the revelation—caught on national TV—that soldiers deployed in Camarines Sur are campaigning for the President's son, are equally serious. We must assume, even before an investigation is complete, that some military units will be used, again, in some form of cheating.

On the news that stuffed ballot boxes have been intercepted: We must assume, together with previous *dagdagbawas* victims, like Aquilino Pimentel Jr., that the cheating has in fact begun.

On reports that a river of cash is now flowing into the country's barangays: While groups like Lente have admirably focused their attention on wholesale fraud at the canvassing level, the reality remains that much of the cheating will still happen at the retail level. Votes are still bought piecemeal, in exchange for a few hundred pesos, perhaps a little bit more. In local races, elections are sometimes decided this way. The Palace has made much of the fact that the opposition failed to field candidates in most races, but let us not delude ourselves: contests between Lakas and Kampi candidates, both administration-affiliated, both flush with cash, will be fierce too. Thus, we must assume that election cheating will also be done the traditional way: by buying the vote, one voter at a time.

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A formidable weapon or a rusted blunderbuss?

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

TO MANY CONCERNED OBSERVERS OF THE political scene, the crucial question to be decided by the electorate on May 14 is whether there will be enough members in the House of Representatives to impeach Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and enough members in the Senate to convict and remove her.

The partisan identity of the victorious candidates is not controlling; it is their individual character that will be decisive. Members of Team Unity are not all conclusively loyal to Ms Arroyo, e.g., Tito Sotto and Tessie Oreta from the FPJ camp and Joker Arroyo and Ralph Recto from the Wednesday Group. And there are those from the GO ticket who, despite their current attacks against GMA may, with their chameleon-like adaptability, be enlisted with irresistible persuasions to side with her. They are nameless for the nonce but will be exposed in due time.

The minimum numbers required in the incoming Congress are one-third of the Comelec-expected 275 (220 district and 55 party-list) members of the House of Representatives to impeach and two-thirds of the 24 senators to convict and remove the respondent. The grounds and the evidence to support them are of secondary importance only, like frosting on the cake. Even if the grounds are controversial and the evidence is insufficient, a hostile Congress may impeach the respondent by a vote of at least 92 members in the House of Representatives and convict and remove him (or her) by a vote of at least 16 members in the Senate.

The impeachment of President Joseph Estrada in 2001 is instructive. By some parliamentary strategy that could have been successfully challenged at the outset in the House of Representatives (but was not), the charges were received in the Senate, which proceeded without delay to conduct the trial. This continued at some length with the whole nation in attendance, either personally or through the radio and television stations. Chief Justice Hilario Davide presided, but with Senate President Aquilino Pimentel beside him—improperly, I think, because the chamber was sitting not as a legislative body but as a high court of impeachment.

We remember that the crucial point of the trial was when the Senate considered the opening of the second envelope that was supposed to contain vital evidence against Estrada. The 12 senators defending him objected over the insistence of the other 11 members who wanted to examine the suspected contents. Sen. Tessie Oreta gleefully danced on TV when the outvoted senators walked out in disgust, followed by the prosecutors headed by then Rep. Joker Arroyo. This ended the trial and the impeachment proceedings themselves although it began the angry demonstrations that led to Edsa 2 and the withdrawal of Estrada from Malacañang, the second President of the Philippines to be ousted by direct People Power.

The abrupt termination of the trial was probably unplanned and simply provoked by the arrogance of the Estrada senators who were flaunting their tyranny of numbers against the attempt of the outvoted senators to get at the truth for the enlightenment of the people. But planned or spontaneous, the indignant reaction of the rebuffed anti-Estrada senators and the prosecutors who shared their outrage, exacerbated by Oreta's infamous jig now remembered with distaste like the dance of Salome with the Seven Veils, was, as it turned out, the best way to end the impeachment trial of Estrada.

Why? Because that trial, if it had proceeded to its formal conclusion, would have resulted in the acquittal of the respondent. Despite the strong evidence submitted against him that could have destroyed his constitutional presumption of innocence and established his guilt beyond reasonable doubt, the Senate with only 11 of its members for his conviction and the 12 others solidly behind him, would have had no choice but to pronounce him Not Guilty. Eleven votes simply were short of the two-thirds majority required by the Constitution for an adverse judgment.

It has been suggested that impeachment is more of a political rather than a judicial proceeding dependent not on the validity of the charges against the respondent but of the votes needed to start and later conclude it. Extolled as "the most formidable weapon in the arsenal of democracy," it is also described as a "rusted blunderbuss" occasionally brandished but hardly ever fired, at least not successfully. Except in the case of Estrada, all other attempts at impeachment in our country have not reached even first base because of political and not judicial obstacles raised by the politicians in Congress.

So, will the coming elections provide the necessary votes in the House of Representatives to impeach and in the Senate to try and judge President Arroyo? She hopes not, which is why she is campaigning for Team Unity only indirectly but directly and more vigorously for her own personal sake. She is the real issue the voters will decide tomorrow.

Give peace a chance

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT AN OLD WOMAN who offered the bus driver a handful of peanuts which he gratefully munched up. After some moments, she gave him more peanuts. Curious, the driver asked why she kept giving him peanuts.

"I have no teeth," she replied.

"But why do you buy peanuts?" the driver asked.

"Oh, I just love the chocolate around them," was the old woman's reply.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Jn. 14, 23-24), we are told that the Lord, before ascending into heaven, gave us no peanuts but two substantial and precious gifts: The Holy Spirit, and peace which the world cannot give or take away. That was true giving.

As we go to the polls tomorrow, let us ask ourselves what the candidates have given us, and what they will give us once they are elected. A portion of their stolen money, a little bit of their time, perhaps, and lots of garbage and empty promises—in other words, peanuts, while they go on enjoying the chocolate around them and giving us their leftovers and surplus.

* * *

Today is Mother's Day. Mothers know what true giving is. A mother's heart approximates God's heart when it comes to true giving and loving. And yet, often, mothers are the most neglected and taken for granted in this world. *Mabuhay kayong mga Nanay*! As long as there are mothers who give, love and sacrifice for their children, God's love will always be present and felt in the world.

* * *

A sad story. Some years ago, I heard about two women who brought to the Sisters of Mother Teresa in Tayuman, Tondo an old woman they found in the streets, abandoned, needing food and shelter—so they claimed. After the two women left, the old woman cried and told the sisters that she was not someone they found in the streets. She was their mother, she was getting to be a burden, so they left her there.

* * *

Another sad story. One time an old woman told me: "Father, better for me to die now." When I asked her why, in between her sobs, she said: What's the use of living? My children hardly visit me. Whenever they call me, they shout at me and get angry at me. When I ask for something, they bring up their own problems and needs. What pains me most is that they go on quarreling, and we have no peace in the family." A sad story. Is it also your story in your family?

* * *

Another very sad story is the story of our motherland. If only she could speak, she would cry out to her children to stop hurting and killing each other. She would particularly appeal to her sons and daughters who lead us to really serve and sacrifice for their less fortunate brothers and sisters; and to those who are supposed to protect and guard us, to do just that. Her heart cries with the exodus of her sons and daughters to other lands just to find work, and her heart bleeds because this beautiful land is being ravaged and plundered, and her children are being prostituted, disgraced and dishonored. And yet, she gathers her children and encourages them not to lose hope, assuring them that something good will come out of this mess, soon, and that a new breed of leaders will arise.

* * *

Every time elections come, let us remember the story of the fox who offered to provide worms for any bird who would share her feathers. One bird bought the offer: the fox would give a feather, and she'd give a worm in return. After a while, the bird had plucked so much of her feather that she could no longer fly; and so the fox jumped on her and ate her. Tomorrow, let us not sell our feathers to scheming and greedy politicians. Let us not exchange our freedom for their filthy money.

* * *

Let us not vote for candidates who have the three G's of guns, goons and gold. Rather, let us go for candidates who have the three G's of God, goodness and guts.

* * *

Congratulations to Fr. John O'Mahony, SVD for his 40 years in the priesthood, 28 of which were spent here in the Philippines. Father John has three indelible marks: his birthmark, his "priestmark" and his "heartmark" on so many people he has served all these years.

* * *

Speaking of indelible marks, let us not make a mockery out of the indelible ink that will be used on all voters tomorrow to safeguard the sanctity of the ballot. Let us be very vigilant and let us be reminded of these words from hard core communist Josef Stalin: "Those who vote decide nothing. Those who count the votes decide everything." Was he speaking of our country as well? *Abangan*.

* * *

On this month of Mama Mary, and on Mother's Day, let us ask our Mother to bless our families, our land and our elections. We ask her especially today, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, to give us that peace which the world cannot give or take away, and to banish war, violence, fraud and fear in our midst.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, teach me true giving and generous giving, and give peace a chance. Amen.

Incomplete victory

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

THE SUPREME COURT DECISION IN "BANTAY Republic vs Comelec" (May 4, 2007), ordering the Commission on Elections "to immediately disclose and release the names of the nominees" of the party-list candidates, was greeted with jubilation. By knowing the nominees, the voters would be more "informed" in making their choices when they troop to the polling places tomorrow.

No ruling on qualifications. However, the battle may have been only half-won. While the high court readily ordered the publication of the nominees' names, it also summarily denied the petition of Bantay Republic (BA-RA 7941) to disqualify 31 party-list candidates.

Among other things, BA-RA 7941 alleged that the Comelec "granted accreditations without the **simultaneous** determination of the qualifications of the nominees as part of the accreditation process of the party-list organization itself." To demolish this argument, the decision simply intoned, "Nowhere in RA 7941 is there a requirement that the qualification of the party-list nominee be determined simultaneously with the accreditation of an organization."

Sadly, the decision focused only on the "simultaneous" timing of the accreditation; it totally ignored the alleged failure of the 31 respondents "to comply with the guidelines prescribed by the Honorable Supreme Court and RA 7941." The Court did not discuss the essential qualifications of whether respondents truly belonged to the marginalized and underrepresented sectors, and whether they were funded by the government.

History of ruling on qualifications. Recall that six years ago, on March 26, 2001, the Comelec accredited 154 organizations and political parties for the party-list election. The accreditation was challenged in "Ang Bagong Bayani vs Comelec," on the ground that the party-list system was reserved only for the "marginalized and underrepresented sectors."

Voting 9-5 (one member was abroad), the high court upheld the petitioners. Citing Secs. 2 and 5 of RA 7941, the Court ruled that only those organizations and their nominees "who belong to marginalized and underrepresented sectors, organizations and parties" were qualified to hold party-list seats. It added that the candidate "must not be an adjunct of, or a project organized or an entity funded or assisted by, the government."

To the dissenters' claim that the Constitution reserved in favor of the poor sectors only one-half of the party-list seats and only for "three consecutive terms after the ratification of this Constitution," the majority held that RA 7941 did not contain any limitations. This law did not conflict with the Charter, because the Constitution itself plainly says that the mechanics of the system shall be "provided by law." Pursuant thereto, Congress enacted RA 7941 which in turn clearly stated, without any limitations, that the party-list was intended for the marginalized and underrepresented.

I quote the Court further: "The law crafted to address the peculiar disadvantages of the Payatas hovel dwellers cannot be appropriated by the mansion owners of Forbes Park ... and a group of bankers, industrialists and sugar planters could not join the party-list system as representatives of their respective sectors."

Remand to ascertain facts. After holding that the Filipino-style party-list system was reserved for the poor, the Court remanded the case so the Comelec could factually determine which of the 154 parties qualified. For the purpose, it issued eight guidelines, "culled from the law and the Constitution to assist the Comelec in its work." It also directed the poll body "to refrain from proclaiming any winner" until the Court has acted on the Comelec's factual assessments.

The foregoing directives were necessary to enable the tribunal to render speedy justice to the parties. You see, once congressmen are proclaimed, the Supreme Court loses jurisdiction over election cases filed against them. Jurisdiction passes, by operation of law, to the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal (HRET). Although decisions of the HRET are assailable by certiorari to the Supreme Court, the transfer of jurisdiction will merely delay the final resolution of the problem.

On June 25, 2003, the Court promulgated its definitive resolution approving the Comelec's reports. Reiterating the "marginalized and underrepresented" doctrine, the resolution was passed by a more resounding vote of 12 (Davide, Bellosillo, Puno, Panganiban [*ponente*], Quisumbing, Ynares-Santiago, Sandoval-Gutierrez, Carpio, Corona, Carpio-Morales, Callejo and Azcuna) to one (Vitug, who was one of the five original dissenters). One justice (Austria-Martinez) was on leave and one seat was vacant.

In stark contrast to the "Ang Bagong Bayani" decision, the present ruling in "Bantay Republic" simply gave petitioners the short-shrift. The Court plainly ignored the petitioners' contention that the respondent party-list candidates "did not meet the eight guidelines" set by the high court itself. With due respect, I think it would have been more judicious to remand the cases and to hold the proclamations until the questions on the qualifications of the 31 respondents are settled (as was done earlier in "Ang Bagong Bayani").

As it is now, the Comelec may, after the canvass, simply proclaim the winners, and render academic the more fundamental qualifications issue. That would not only be a cop-out; but an unmitigated desecration of the party-list system and a muscular stomp on the poor and the weak.

* * *

Comments are welcome at chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com

When guns speak

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

THE WORD "PROTECTOR" BRINGS UP MANY IMAGES—the mother with a hand over her pregnant belly, the thousands of civilians standing before tanks during the Edsa revolution, the 300 Spartans holding back the mighty Persian army, the red-caped Superman pushing an asteroid away from planet Earth. To protect means to shield from danger, injury, destruction, or damage.

In Filipino, the word for protector is "*bantay*." And as every dog in every children's story is named Bantay, with that irresistible mingling of trust and loyalty and affection that is associated with dogs, I find it rather insulting, both to the canine species and to the word itself, that retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan is running under the party-list Bantay. Their posters, scattered all over Metro Manila, show a dog and not much else.

There are many things I find offensive with the candidates in the coming elections, and it would take a much longer column to detail them all. But what I find most offensive, most intolerable and most repugnant is the idea that a few weeks from now, the citizens of the grand, glorious Republic of the Philippines may be compelled to address the man many perceive as the butcher of the AFP as "Honorable Jovito Palparan."

The party-list system exists for a simple purpose. According to the Party-List System Act, or RA 7941, it is "to enable Filipino citizens belonging to the marginalized and underrepresented sectors, organizations and parties, and those who lack well-defined political constituencies but who could contribute to the formulation and enactment of appropriate legislation that benefit the nation as a whole, to become members of the House of Representatives."

Palparan's Bantay, also known as True Marcos Loyalists, promises to represent the military in Congress "to implement the government's national security program." I do not know why he thinks that the Armed Forces of the Philippines—the body that gets the lion's share of the national budget—is a "marginalized and underrepresented sector," but apparently, the Comelec happily bought his line. It is the AFP whose generals are now occupying plum positions in government, it is the AFP who gets away with murder literally, and it is the AFP, unlike most sectors, that gets consistent and appreciative mentions in the President's state of the nation addresses.

That there are issues within the AFP is not in question. Those issues were what pushed Antonio Trillanes to rage in Oakwood. Whatever internal problems the AFP has, the House of Representatives is not the venue for their resolution.

But even assuming it is fair, and that by some skewed logic Bantay deserves to be called a party list, it is the height of insanity to claim that Palparan is a legitimate representative of the military. The representative is supposed to embody the best of what is in the group he represents—and Palparan does not. I still believe in the integrity and courage of a greater part of the military, in the men and women who face death daily, those who are away from wives and children to protect the State, those who understand that they fight for us, not against us—those who still stand by the old code: duty, honor, country.

Palparan is not one of these men. Palparan is the man who believes that when the guns speak, the laws fall silent. Might makes right, and the lives of some matter less than the lives of others. He tells the Melo Commission that "the killing of activists is necessary incident to conflict." The brave, brave man, however, refuses to take responsibility for the trail of bodies that follows in his wake.

"The killings are being attributed to me," he says, "but I did not kill them. I just inspire the triggermen." He was delighted at the disappearance of the students who were volunteering outside of Manila—"Their disappearance is good for us but as to who abducted them, we don't know." And he announces, with neither guilt nor reluctance, that "I encourage people victimized by communist rebels to get even."

It is men like Palparan who chip away at the respect for human rights that should be the foundation of any democratic country. Their arrogance encourages those who have the means and the money to act with impunity; it is that arrogance that cows those who would have chosen to fight.

Fear is a powerful disincentive, and it is the military's weapon of choice. Fear hounds you when you jump into a cab alone, nips at your heels whenever the sun sets, and dogs you with every word or phrase or truth you say. And every day, the reeking stench of fear seems to be creeping over the metropolis. It no longer skulks in the shadows, or waits in dark alleys and tinted black vans. Fear is the man in fatigue who ambles toward reporters and interrogates them on their notes; fear sits waiting in the crowded Ever Gotesco restaurant where Jonas Burgos was dragged out screaming before watching security guards; fear lurks in the bus where the Aquinas University student leader was shot at six in the morning. It is in every sunlit street corner, in the school backyard; fear lives in the thought that every e-mailed letter, every text message, every telephone conversation that you have with your mother or sister or lover is being read and listened to by a faceless man.

It is that same fear that will be institutionalized with Palparan in power. The surveys say that Bantay has little chance of winning. But surveys do not take into consideration government machinery. Surveyors do not walk into military camps to look for respondents. And in spite of a memorandum of agreement that prohibits the AFP from participating in election duties, reports have been coming in of military men campaigning for the Bantay party list. There have been text messages forwarded to media men, and more disturbing stories of command voting. Ricky Carandang reported that on May 1st, Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, commanding general of the Philippine Army, met with leaders of the 2nd Infantry Battalion and ordered the officers to compel their men to vote straight for Team Unity senatorial candidates and for Bantay. Ballots were surrendered to the officer and checked for compliance.

The military denies the incident.

Who guards the guardians? Certainly not the President, and certainly not their commanders. Many say the country is hopeless. It is not. It is a frightening time, a dark, dark moment, but tomorrow, we have one more chance to take up arms in the polling booth, one more shot at buying back our integrity.

In Pampanga, a lone priest slips on a bulletproof vest and marches, surrounded by thousands of candle-bearing citizens. In Naga, an embattled mayor makes a stand side by side with his people. And in Ayala Avenue, Jonas Burgos' mother makes an appeal for the son stolen by men like Jovito Palparan.

* * *

For comments, just text: PM REBEL name, age, location, message then send to 2948 for Globe/Sun and 3940 for Smart. E-mail at rebel.inquirer@gmail.com

The rest on my list

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HAVING SAID I WOULD VOTE FOR ALL FOUR women running for the Senate, I have eight Senate slots left to fill up on my ballot tomorrow.

Early on, whenever anyone would ask me whom I'd vote for on May 14, I said I was still thinking about the line-up because I was having a heck of a time coming up with 12 names. But an encounter with Bill Luz, of the Makati Business Club and lately of Namfrel, convinced me that I should make the time and effort to complete my senatorial slate. The "fill-up rate," said Bill, was important because a low "fill-up rate" (the average was about seven in the 2004 polls) opens the door to cheating, manipulation and the entry of otherwise undeserving candidates.

All candidates, after all, have their pros and cons, and not one of them, I guess, would come out 100 percent on the positive side when their personal traits and histories, performance, voting record, stands on issues and alliances made are weighed. In fact, since each voter comes with a separate and unique checklist, it would be impossible for any one candidate to satisfy everyone, equally.

So if any one of you readers happen to disagree with a name on my list, including the four women I already mentioned, let's just agree to disagree. And if any one on my list does make it to the "Magic 12" and then does something absolutely reprehensible, then feel free to write or e-mail and tell me "I told you so."

So to the four women and the eight that follow: Please don't make me regret my vote!

* * *

IN ALPHABETICAL order, my remaining eight choices are:

Noynoy Aquino—He may not exactly be his father's clone, but then was there ever a son who was proud to be his dad's mini-me? Soft-spoken and often flying under the radar, Noynoy has, just the same, spoken out when it was necessary and joined causes I always thought fell on the side of good. At least he has his father's political instincts. Criticized for letting his mother and most famous sister take up the cudgels for him in his TV ads, Noynoy in fact displays an admirable political savvy. At least his endorsers are part of the family, and not some actor or celebrity paid millions to extol the candidate's qualities.

Joker Arroyo—Of course I was disappointed when he chose to run under the banner of Team Unity, in effect legitimizing the doubtful legality and morality of the GMA presidency. But then, the country owes this guy. You can't wipe out decades of courageous struggle and defense of human rights because of one mistake. But let's not let him forget it, either. *Kung magiging* bad *ka*, Joker, *lagot ka*!

Martin Bautista—He's the only Ang Kapatiran candidate I'm including in my list. First, because I believe a party like Ang Kapatiran deserves encouragement, and second, because Bautista impresses with his passion and articulateness. Besides which, he's not bad-looking, either. I won't vote for Jess Paredes because of his previous support for the VFA and his interpretation that the US government had the right to demand custody of Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith. Resigning after Smith's clandestine transfer was "too little, too late." I do like Adrian Sison, but he couldn't best the other aspirants, sorry.

* * *

ALAN Cayetano—It takes ummm, balls, to take on the First Family, and nerves of steel to stand up to their assorted harassments, including fielding a "no-name namesake" to confuse voters. Though his sister Pia already sits in the Senate, the pair of Cayetanos is one dynastic presence I am willing to tolerate, if only because the Senate needs someone with Alan's doggedness and guts.

Chiz Escudero—He strikes me as a young *trapo*, and it turns out he's a social conservative on issues like divorce and reproductive health. But he is young, and about to be a first-time parent, so he may yet learn valuable insights from the role. But he shone as minority floor leader, cobbling together a working coalition out of a motley variety of oppositionists, disappointed former administration stalwarts and noisy party-list legislators. Let's see what he's capable of in the Senate.

Kiko Pangilinan—He's fairly young (though aging rapidly, judging by his white hair), a solid legislator, with a fondness for taking on socially progressive causes. Save for the unfortunate "Mr. Noted" mess, he has weathered the difficult balancing act of being majority floor leader while keeping an independent stance. By running as an independent, he bucked the blandishments of both opposition and administration and showed what one can do with a can-do spirit and a very famous wife and lovely children.

* * *

RALPH Recto—My husband says he won't vote for Recto because of the E-VAT law. But I think it's to Recto's credit that he even understood how the E-VAT works, and what its long-term advantages for the economy would be. He isn't flashy and strikes me as a serious legislator who does his homework. And by standing by his famous wife's side and letting her fly, he shows that he's one secure husband.

Manny Villar—Rumor has it that so sure is the Senate president of securing a seat that he spends much of his time on the campaign trail talking about the presidency—in 2010. But I don't know, I like the guy. At least he's not shy about his ambition, or about preparing for it way ahead of time. With his wife, Rep. Cynthia Villar, he's also proven to be a staunch supporter of bills addressing women's issues. Voting for him is my way of paying him back.

That's it, that's the rest of my Top 12. Not all of them may make it, but what's important is that we choose those we feel and know will serve the country best. And let's not take our eyes off those who do win. Our real work as citizens begins tomorrow.

Parties of the future

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

IN THE CAMPAIGN LEADING UP TO TOMORrow's election, political platforms or programs of government—the basic ingredients of a functioning democracy—predictably took a backseat. This sad reality not only mirrors the relative immaturity of the country's politics, it also explains the lack of coherence in the nation's governance.

As in previous elections, this year's campaign was driven mainly by personalities. But even here, the messages stayed at the primitive level of ensuring name recall, which favored heavy investments in repetitive television and radio advertising. Candidates with nothing to offer but money and celebrity appeal stayed away from forums and debates, where they ran the risk of exposing the void in their minds.

The senatorial race pits two alliances of convenience against each other—one supported by the sitting president, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and the other closely identified with the detained former president, Joseph Ejercito Estrada. Nothing substantial distinguishes the two teams from one another, surely not in terms of shared principles or visions.

Even more dismal is the contest at the local level, where the usual political families or factions of Ms Arroyo's political circle are locked in bitter struggle. In a few instances, as in Pampanga's gubernatorial race, a dark horse representing a spontaneous third force has come forward to offer an alternative. But, the political passion that makes such reformist breakthroughs possible is bound to dissipate immediately after the elections, unless someone takes the lead to organize a new political party.

Apart from electoral reforms aimed at minimizing, if not totally eliminating, fraud in the counting and canvassing of votes, a modern political system will require the formation of stable political parties that represent competing analyses of the national situation and alternative visions of the future. Dynasties and "*trapos*" flourish because of the absence of program-based political parties.

It was for the purpose of breaking the cycle of traditional politics that the framers of the 1987 Constitution introduced the concept of the party list under a multi-party system. But the idea of allocating parliamentary seats according to the proportion of votes obtained by parties was so unfamiliar that its proponents had to settle for an experimental compromise. That compromise fused two distinct concepts—proportional representation and sectoral representation—into a single confusing system. Still, the open terrain prescribed by the 1987 Charter has been hospitable to the birth of a new breed of parties. I shall mention only two here: Akbayan and Ang Kapatiran.

I had a chance to read the documentation of the multi-layered process that culminated in the Akbayan platform of governance. I was impressed not only by the participatory character of the process but also by the high level of research and analysis that informs the document. This is Akbayan's principal strength.

But, in addition, its nominees are among the best that the progressive community can offer. Risa Hontiveros is a leading peace advocate and passionate champion of women's causes. Hers is the gentle but courageous voice behind every campaign against the abuse of power. Walden Bello, a professor of sociology and public administration at UP, is the Philippines' best known intellectual activist against the excesses of globalization. No other Filipino has written and spoken as widely as he has on the complexities of the global political economy. Gico Dayanghirang combines his broad experience as a former Davao Oriental congressman with local grass-roots work in Mindanao's countryside. Gico offers the local perspective of communities on the ground.

Ang Kapatiran, on the other hand, is not running in the crowded party-list race. In its very first election, it has boldly decided to go national by fielding a small team of three senatorial candidates. I know a little about the birth pains that attended the formation of Kapatiran, having spoken at a couple of gatherings organized by its founder, the irrepressible Nandy Pacheco. Nandy belongs to that rare breed of lay Catholics who take to heart the social teachings of the Church. Ang Kapatiran's vision is communitarian; its battle hymn is social solidarity.

The surveys have shown Ang Kapatiran's senatorial candidates trailing behind the better-known political names. Martin Bautista, a physician who enjoyed a successful practice in the United States came home for good a few years ago to help rebuild the country. In a small but significant gesture of patriotism, Zosimo Paredes quit the Arroyo administration after a basic disagreement over the scope of Filipino jurisdiction in the US-RP Visiting Forces Agreement. Adrian Sison, a lawyer, has eloquently articulated Ang Kapatiran's position on almost every issue in various media appearances. Whether or not they make it to the Senate, they have already won the hearts of many thoughtful Filipinos who believe in the power of example.

Today, there is a strong push to abolish the party list and to go back to the old two-party system, as if this alone would cure the dysfunctions of an obsolete political system. Should that happen, the new visionary parties like Ang Kapatiran and Akbayan—the kind of parties we expect to find in a modern society—would likely vanish. That would be a setback. For, if there is anything bright in this uninspiring political season, it has to be the presence of these two unique parties.

* * *

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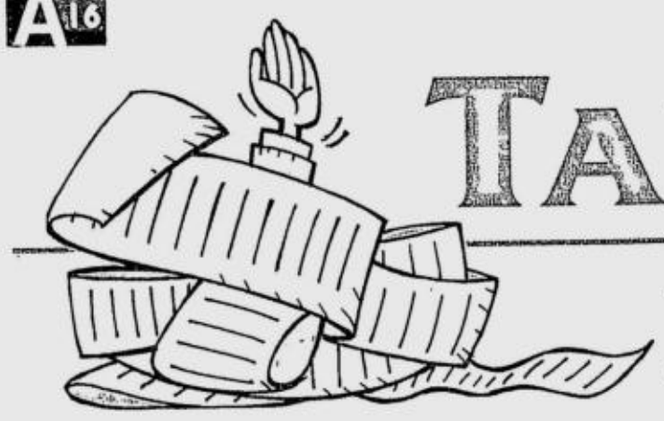
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2007



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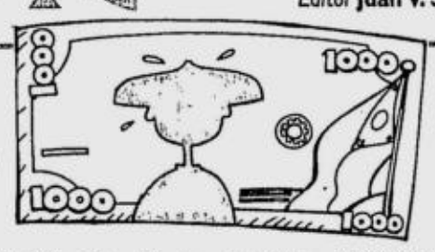

Senatorial candidates	Platform in broad strokes (The long version can be accessed at Inquirer.net.)	Source of campaign funds
Edgardo Angara Team Unity	Key initiatives on children's health insurance, the increase in discounts among senior citizens, science education, and financial assistance program for students are among my priority projects in the next Congress. A Children's Health Insurance Program would provide mandatory health insurance to newly born babies and children of low-income families. For the senior citizens, I will push for an increase in discounts from 20 percent to 34 percent to reverse the effect of the 12-percent expanded value added tax.	They consist mostly of friends such as my partners in ACCRA and UP alumni, my local leaders, businessmen and those I have helped in my law practice and during my long career as a public servant—people I have helped without asking for anything in return. I have also received gracious endorsements from famous personalities such as Sarah Geronimo, who believe in my capability as a legislator and who are impressed by my track record.
Benigno Simeon "Noynoy" Aquino III Genuine Opposition	Strengthen the Senate as an independent branch of government; continue to hold government to account for its excesses and misgovernance; resist Charter change if done to serve the selfish interests of the few and if the process circumvents that prescribed by the Constitution; oppose attempts to impose a repressive government; and, most importantly, be the voice of the powerless and the oppressed—those who do not have access to our government and are, thus, victims of injustice.	Family, friends and business supporters.
Joker Arroyo Team Unity	I have always been a protector of human rights, not just about the rights of militants or dissenters to publicly demonstrate or air their views without fear. As important to the protection of civil and political rights is the promotion of the social rights of every individual. This means the right of every Filipino to education, opportunity for employment, a decent home, adequate food, hand-in-hand with presumption of innocence, due process, security against police interference, etc. Another major concern for me is abuse of power and corruption.	I don't go around looking for funds. I really don't like that. It's not that it's demeaning, but they come by. I have some respectable friends. In all those years that I ran—1992, 1995, 1998, in the first district of Makati, I never spent my own money. In 2001 I ran [for senator], I didn't spend my own money. I've never spent my own money because the moment you do that, my golly, you compromise yourself. That's how it is. We manage somehow.
Martin Bautista Kapatiran	A return to God and the good that He represents in politics like honesty, truth, love of the poor, justice.	Parents, relatives and friends.
Alan Peter "Compañero" Cayetano Genuine Opposition	The biggest challenge is to fight the feeling of helplessness of many Filipinos. The centerpiece of my platform is good government and good governance. More than P1 trillion is lost to corruption. That is, funds not properly collected or collected but lost to graft or collected but lost because of inefficiency and waste. Thus, our priorities of education, health, infrastructure development, etc. can all be funded if we address corruption effectively. We will also strengthen public institutions, the civil service system, and promote peace and order and a level playing field for all.	Friends and people who believe in me, and the causes I am fighting for. There are also many small donors I met during the campaign, who donated and helped out.
Anna Dominique "Nikki" Coseteng Genuine Opposition	Modernize public schools to be at par with private and exclusive schools through the use of high-tech equipment (computers and peripherals); institutionalize primary and preventive health care programs; enhance women's empowerment and gender equality; increase job, trade and business opportunities; champion the cause of farmers, fisherfolk, small entrepreneurs and cooperatives; and, press for a debt-service moratorium to generate funds to support the above.	My donors are friends and supporters who believe in what I stand for. Some even suddenly showed up when they found out I was running. We will declare them when we file our election expenditures at the Commission on Elections at the proper time.
Mike "Tol" Defensor Team Unity	1. Housing to every Filipino family, provision of security of tenure to informal settlers, additional incentives for developers of socialized housing projects. 2. Education and livelihood for the disabled. 3. National unity. For the country to achieve economic development, bickering and destructive politics must be set aside. 4. Health. Improve access to health care services and facilities. Local government units with their meager resources must be supported to maintain basic health care facilities and services.	Most of my campaign funds come from my friends and people I have helped.
Francis "Chiz" Escudero Genuine Opposition	First, to bring the voice and vote of the people to the Senate; Second, to focus on more jobs, lower prices, more income and no additional taxes; Third, institutionalize the GK approach in restoring the dignity of the Filipino; Fourth, to promote nondiscrimination and equal opportunity for all Filipinos; and, Fifth, fight for what is right and fight against what is wrong... yes *pag tama at no pag mali*.	Well-meaning friends and acquaintances who share my vision and my platform. We do not have a budget for our campaign. We simply make do with what we have.
Richard "Goma" Gomez Independent	Number one is my anti-drug campaign. The antidrug law should be strengthened. Confiscated drugs should be laced with cyanide so that these wouldn't be resold in the streets. I am also prioritizing sports because I've been a national athlete for the past 18 years. I will also fight for increasing the salaries of workers. Because it would be difficult to compete with industrialized countries, we should focus on improving our cottage industries. We should promote Philippine products from the different regions and export these to the rest of the world. This would cause local economies to boom.	Friends and sympathizers. People who believe in my advocacy. Supporters from in and out of show biz. I don't want to name names. That would be unfair.
Gregorio Honasan Independent	*Poverty*, intensify policies on increasing productivity and self-sufficiency; *economy*, review globalization policies; reinforce principles of sustainable development; *self-determination*, implement a mini-Marshall Plan for Bicol and Mindanao; *anticorruption*, reform institutions and system to increase risks of detection and conviction. *Education*, increase standard of living for teachers; Magna Carta for Students and Schoolteachers; *peace and order*, push for passage of the National Security Code, reinforce human rights; *environment*, pass the Water Management Act; National Land Use Code; proper implementation of the Clean Air Act and Solid Waste Management Act.	Family and close friends have been supporting me, mostly in the form campaign materials, office equipment and food for volunteers. But the most important support being given to me is that of volunteers who devote time and effort to compensate for our lack of resources.
Jamalul "Kiram" Kiram III Team Unity	Unity, peace and development toward a democratic and stable government that equally cares for all Filipinos.	Party, internally sourced funds and some business friends.
Panfilo "Ping" Lacson Genuine Opposition	I am advocating a platform of HOPE, or Health, Order, Progress and Education, because these are the gut and interlocking issues that affect our people. So many poor Filipinos have little or no access to health services, while many do not have equal opportunities to earn a decent living, all because they continue to be deprived of quality education that can make them suited for economic activities, as an employee, farmer or entrepreneur.	Most of my campaign funds come from friends, supporters in the business community who share my advocacy for good governance, and families that feel I have helped save them in the past from the clutches of criminals.
Loren Legarda Genuine Opposition	Poverty alleviation through agricultural productivity because hunger is the country's biggest problem. Better educational opportunities for the youth through the improvement of English proficiency, science and mathematics, and skills training for out-of-school youth. Improve the public health system and environmental protection. Protection of the rights of women and children, law reform, and better public governance are also my priorities when I return to the Senate.	My donors consist mainly of my family, relatives, friends and well-meaning acquaintances. These are the same supporters who saw me through my election campaign for senator in 1998 and for vice president in 2004.
Vicente "Vic" Magsaysay Team Unity	Build an enabling government in which utilities and basic goods and services are delivered to my constituencies. My legislative agenda seeks to strengthen local government units, realize measures at the *purok* level, empower SMEs (which create 70 percent of jobs in the country through training), integrate IT as a marketing and networking tool, implement micro-credit through cooperatives for a unified development. Balance the use of the environment for the development of the countryside to enhance food security. Modernize the health system, provide the poor with access to justice and strengthen the family as a basic political unit.	Self, friends and relatives.
Cesar "Buboy" Montano Team Unity	My priority is to provide decent jobs to our countrymen. I aim to protect the environment and I also want to promote tourism in the country. I've been pursuing these causes for a long time, even when I was still in the movies through my work as actor, writer, producer and director.	I have lots of friends, both from within and outside of show biz, helping me out. Most of them want to remain anonymous. They've given their pledge to me that win or lose, they are behind me. Of course, the administration is also giving equal support to all of us on the ticket.
Teresa "Tessie" Oreta Team Unity	First, provide free preschool education to every Filipino child. We must give every child a fair start in education, a fair start in life. Second, enhance teacher's welfare. We must provide incentives, merit pay and opportunities for the professional development of our future teachers and knowledge catalysts. Third, modernize public education. We must reverse the vicious cycle of physical and infrastructure shortage in our schools. A review of the basic curriculum for elementary and high school is needed to strengthen the values, critical thinking and analysis, and communication skills of our students.	I have been blessed with a husband who, apart from being my chief political coordinator, has been steadily spending for my campaign. We are also blessed with a solid group of friends, who have been wholeheartedly pouring their support. I am really blessed with many friends, who believed that I can make a difference and serve our country again.
John Henry "Sonny" Osmeña Genuine Opposition	How can I answer this in two sentences. But if I must, one word. "federalism."	Personal funds.
Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan Liberal Party	Work for accountable and responsive government. I shall commit myself to strengthening local governments, and push for measures to improve the compensation and working conditions for all members of the judicial branch. I'm committed to strengthening our democracy through the promotion of human rights. I'll seek to strengthen the family, empower the youth, improve the public school system, upgrade the condition of teachers and provide equal educational opportunities to all our youth. I'll also push for livable communities, and advocate urban renewal and transformation.	My donors are my family members and personal friends. We staged fundraising dinners and other events to generate funds, given the fact that I am running independently and thus do not have the moneyed machinery of a political ticket.
Zosimo "Jess" Paredes Kapatiran	Abolish pork barrel, outlaw political dynasties, eradicate graft and corruption—punish all the grafters and corruptors from the top down, reduce or alleviate poverty, eradicate unemployment and underemployment, resume peace talks with the MILF and CPP-NPA toward the attainment of just and lasting peace agreements in the shortest time possible. Improve the quality of education, ensure a rapid and sustainable economic growth for a better quality of life for all.	Must come only from two sources: a.) the party via authorized fund-raising campaigns; and, b.) the national government, as subsidy.
Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III Genuine Opposition	To promote the rule of law to improve the economy and the investment climate; to pursue my father's legacy of local autonomy; to prepare the youth for roles as leaders of the country, captains of industry, and breadwinners of their families by making quality science education and information communication technologies accessible to all; to support Gawad Kalinga and programs that give land and housing to the poor; to bring the Mindanao agenda (peace, bigger budgetary allocation, equality in appointments, Mindanao Economic Development Authority, Mindanao Railway System, etc.) to the national consciousness.	From the political party, family, relatives, fellow Rotarians and Jaycees, neighbors, clients, fellow Mindanaonons, and "old" Pimentel supporters and friends.
Ralph "Korecto" Recto Team Unity	To give those who have less in life more HEARTS in law. Health, Education, Agriculture, Roads, Technology, and Shelter. Build a nation for our children by creating a kinder, gentler society today so they will have faith in their abilities and hope for the future.	Vilma's TV ad talent fees went back into making and placing my political ads. A lot of Batangueños also chipped in. Contributions are closely vetted to ensure that they come from clean sources. We will report to the Comelec every centavo raised and spent.
Prospero "Butch" Pichay Jr. Team Unity	P – Performance. I stand on my performance and principled politics. I – Infrastructure like irrigation, farm-to-market roads and bridges, more hospitals in the countryside. C – Cooperatives. H – Health. I will help regional centers put up modern equipment so they can give quality health care. A – Agriculture. I will push for farmers to adopt new methods of farming and new varieties. Y – Youth. We should invest more in education as this is where we can help the youth. We should pursue sports consciousness for the youth. I have started this being president of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines and the Philippine Surfing Federation.	Donors? I will disclose them after the elections
Sonia "Inang Guro" Roco Genuine Opposition	Study now, pay later plan, "job-ready" network for graduates with the support of teachers, parents, NGOs, commerce and industry. Information highway for education to be used by the youth from Abra to Zamboanga. The foundation of my platform is my advocacy of moral values.	Donations in cash and kind from generous donors, mostly friends from way back who believe I can make a difference in the Senate. (Manna from heaven, *kay* Raul *kaya*, my invisible campaign manager.)
Luis "Chavit" Singson Team Unity	Justice, peace and order. The justice system must be made equitable. Graft in the judiciary must be eradicated. Peace and order in each province means stability for the whole. The control of the police must be returned to local officials. Remittance of the internal revenue allotment must be made easy and timely. Colleges must be strategically located for easier access by more students in far-flung areas. The devolution of health services to local government must be reviewed. The continued exodus of our doctors and nurses must be addressed through proper legislation, which will keep them in the country by improving their benefits and incomes.	Team Chavit is largely composed of volunteers, and the funds needed to sustain the grueling senatorial campaign are mostly derived from donors and sponsors too numerous to mention. I have also committed a sizeable portion of my personal money.
Adrian Sison Kapatiran	Abolish pork barrel, no to political dynasty, no to graft and corruption.	From individuals, officers of the party, friends and relatives. No corporate sponsors.
Vicente "Tito" Sotto III Team Unity	All government actions must be focused on reducing poverty especially in the countryside. We must: 1. Develop our regions and develop highly urbanized cities in each region; 2. Focus on health care especially for the poor; 3. Invest in education; 4. Increase the autonomy and capacity of local governments to address poverty at the local level.	The major source of my campaign funds is my political party. My family and friends are also my strongest financial and moral supporters. I do not want to be beholden to any political financier. I just want to be accountable to the people.
Antonio "Magdalo" Trillanes IV Genuine Opposition	File bills to curb corruption and resolve poverty, promote peace and order, free education, provide health and social services to all Filipinos.	Family and friends. I accept "no-strings-attached" donations only. I reject donors who are "shady."
Manuel "Manny" Villar Jr. Genuine Opposition	I am basically pushing for a V-point agenda, which specifically targets and prioritizes the following five key areas in order to uplift the lives of Filipinos and stir the country's economic growth: quality education, affordable health care, agricultural advancement, productive entrepreneurship and environment protection.	Please refer to the Comelec.
Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri Team Unity	Progress can be achieved by addressing three areas of concern, which are the youth, the environment and development. The youth need attention due to the deterioration of education and surge in crime and drug addiction. Investing in their education and training is one of the best ways government can accomplish growth in our economy. The environment needs attention as global warming is felt in the Philippines. For development, government should focus on developing rural areas. Given the chance to serve in the Senate, I will propose laws addressing these three areas of concern.	I intend to submit an itemized report of my campaign expenditures to the Comelec at the proper time. As of now, I cannot disclose the names of my donors for their protection.

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ROUNDUP

2 kids die in fire

ROXAS CITY—Two children died after they were trapped inside their burning house early Friday. Adlawan barangay captain Rolando Celuso reported to the Roxas Police Station that a fire razed the house of Artemio Fernando Sr., 44, at Sitio Switch, Barangay Adlawan and killed two of his four children, Artemio Jr., 5, and Sarah Jane, 2. Two others, Greatheart, 12, and Cindel Joy, 8, escaped from the house with minor burns and were brought to a hospital here. The four children were alone at home as their mother, Precy, 40, and eldest daughter, Jennifer, 19, were at a village dance. Artemio Sr. was at work as a fishpond caretaker in Pontevedra.

Felipe V. Celino, Inquirer Visayas

Army to cheat, says NPA

BAGUIO CITY—The New People's Army said soldiers in the Ilocos and Cordillera have been ordered to cheat in the coming elections and work to get a solid vote for the administration's senatorial candidates. In a statement, Martin Montana, spokesperson of the NPA's Chadli Molintas Command, said "inside sources" from "sympathetic junior military officers" operating in the Ilocos and the Cordillera revealed the information. However, Maj. Ferdinand Razalan, spokesperson of Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom), denied the group's allegations and said the military unit "Tirad Pass Brigade" that the NPA said was its source of information does not exist. "We even do not have any underground rightist groups existing in our area. The military will remain nonpartisan and that is what we want to emphasize," Razalan said. Montana said all kinds of information tagging the military in alleged election cheating should be taken seriously.

Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Ermita slams blackprop

BATANGAS vice gubernatorial candidate Edwin Ermita denounced what he said was black propaganda that was spreading talk he would dump his running mate, gubernatorial candidate Vilma Santos, in a scenario that was supposed to have reelectionist Gov. Armand Sanchez and he win. Under the supposed scenario, after winning, Ermita would take over the gubernatorial post because Sanchez would be suspended on a pending graft case against him. "It's a crazy scenario," said Ermita in his statement. He said Vilma is currently leading 62 percent over Sanchez's 23 percent acceptance among Batangas voters. "It's like quicksand. Our enemies are now feeling they would lose that's why they're resorting to this."

Banana king endorsement

BANANA king Antonio Floirendo has openly endorsed the candidacy of brother-in-law Rodolfo del Rosario for Davao del Norte governor. Floirendo made the endorsement in a taped video aired in a Davao City TV station. "To the voters of Davao del Norte, I am asking for your help. Let us support all of the Lakas-CMD candidates for governor and Anton Floirendo Lagdameo for congressman," Floirendo said.

PNP CHIEF'S HELP SOUGHT

Bloodshed in Bacoor feared

By Marlon Ramos, *Inquirer Southern Luzon*

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—AN INCUMBENT MAYOR who is running for congressman in the first district of Cavite on Saturday urged Philippine National Police chief Director General Oscar Calderon to intervene in the rising political tension in Bacoor to prevent bloodshed.

Bacoor Mayor Jessie Castillo sought the assistance of Calderon after he accused members of the Cavite provincial police office of engaging in partisan politics to favor the candidacy of mayoral candidate Strike Revilla.

Revilla, the younger brother of actor and administration Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., is up against Castillo's wife Minerva.

He said Cavite police officials, led by Supt. Rodel Sermonia and Supt. Leo Francisco, have been harassing his followers and even detained his political leaders "without any legal basis."

"I'm calling on General Calderon and the PNP hierarchy to look into the incidents which transpired in our town. They should act on the situation otherwise bloodshed might happen here," Castillo said in a mobile phone interview.

Castillo claimed the harassment on his followers started when the campaign period started in late March.

He said just last Thursday, operatives of the Cavite police Special Operations Group, headed by Francisco, arrested his followers and detained them while transporting bags of rice on board two trucks.

He said the bags of rice were meant for the "victory ball because we're sure that we would win in the elections."

The rice, he added, will also be distributed to the people in time for a barangay fiesta.

Castillo blamed the senator for using the policemen to "bully our supporters and ensure his brother's victory."

"Bong Revilla is in connivance with all the government officials here in Cavite, from election officers to police officials. He's acting like the President here," he said.

The INQUIRER repeatedly tried to reach Senator Revilla but he cannot be contacted on his mobile phone.

The actor-politician denied Castillo's accusations against him in earlier interviews.

Magsaysay men accused of beating village exec

CASTILLEJOS, ZAMBALES—A candidate for councilor here died of a heart attack after he tried to intercede when six men, said to be working for a local candidate, beat up a village official and two staff members of reelectionist Mayor Wilma Billman in Barangay San Nicolas here on Saturday.

Billman said the men, who were working for her rival, Carla Magsaysay, beat up a barangay captain and two of her staffers who checked out reports of alleged massive vote-buying in Barangay San Nicolas at 1:30 a.m.

Billman said Aurelio Fastidio, a candidate for councilor in her slate, died from a heart attack after he tried to rescue San Nicolas village chief Alfredo de los Santos, Melvin Santoni and Teofilo Rafanan.

Billman said the three men suffered multiple injuries when they were beaten up by the suspects armed with M-14 rifles and .45 cal. guns.

"They're abusive," Billman, 53, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview on Saturday. She is running under the Liberal Party and Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino alliance.

Supt. Jerry Sumbad, Castillejos police chief, confirmed the attack but said police were still determining the identities of the suspects.

Reached to get the contact numbers of his niece, Zambales Gov. Vicente Magsaysay said Billman's charges were "lies." Carla is the daughter of Magsaysay's younger brother, Cesar.

Castillejos is the hometown of the Magsaysays.

"Billman is lying," said Magsaysay, a senatorial candidate of the administration's Team Unity who ranks 20-21 in a field of 12 candidates in recent surveys.

He said Billman's group meddled in the drinking spree of Carla's supporters in the village.

Pressed to give the numbers of Carla, Magsaysay said: "She's not available. She's still asleep."

"That's just a minor incident. Write your story on Tuesday or Wednesday. Give it to me as a Christmas gift," Magsaysay told the INQUIRER by telephone.

In Billman's version of the story, she said her slate was holding its "miting de avance" when she got reports that residents lined up at the house of village council member Gary de Guzman where at least P500 was supposedly being distributed to each resident.

That was when De los Santos and her two staff members went to the place. The suspects arrived in a black car with no license plate, she said.

Tonette Orejas with a report from Cesar Villa, Inquirer Central Luzon

Poll exec in bribe relieved

By Alex Pal and Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—NEGROS ORIENTAL provincial election supervisor Manuel Advincula was relieved from his post yesterday after his arrest on Friday after accepting P50,000 in alleged bribe from a congressional candidate.

Comelec regional director Ray Rene Buac said he issued the relief order yesterday.

But Buac said the Comelec still stands by Advincula.

"He is relieved from the post. That's one way of helping him so he can prepare for his defense," Buac said.

Buac said, however, that Advincula could report to the Comelec office anytime.

The Dumaguete City prosecutor's office approved the filing of a direct bribery charge against Advincula.

The NBI on Friday arrested Advincula after he took a bag containing P50,000 in cash from a woman agent. The money came from opposition congressional candidate Edgar Teves.

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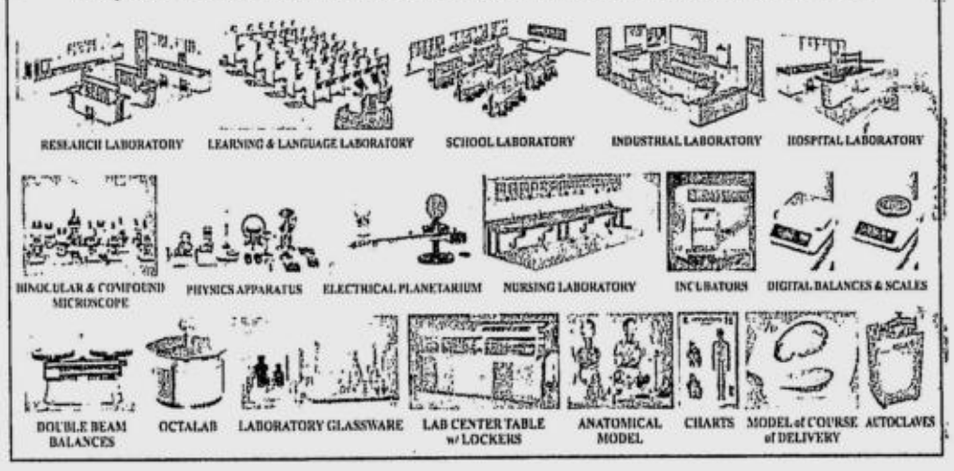

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Mindanao agenda missing in Senate candidates' platform

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Iligan City

AS THE SENATORIAL campaign ended last night with major camps claiming they will corner the 12 contested seats, a clear articulation of the Mindanao agenda by candidates or their groups continues to be missing.

This missing link is evident with the recent sorties of Team Unity (TU) in Zamboanga Peninsula last week given that the group has three Mindanao politicians aboard its camp: Reps. Miguel Zubiri and Prospero Pichay, and Sultan Jamalul Kiram.

The Genuine Opposition's Mindanao bet, Aquilino Pimentel III, also fell short of articulating a Mindanao agenda, unlike his father's 2004 campaign.

TU candidates campaigned in Zamboanga City Wednesday, then on to Ipil in Zamboanga Sibugay, Dipolog City in Zamboanga del Norte. By Thursday, they were in Misamis Occidental, and then Pagadian City in Zamboanga del Sur.

The absence of a well-defined Mindanao agenda in the campaign platform of Senate bets confirms earlier projections made by civil society leader Ray Magno Teves.

Early in the campaign, Teves had warned that reference to Mindanao in the senatorial race will be more about personalities rather than agenda.

But it is still better to have these Mindanao-bred politicians in the Senate than have nothing at all, said Wenny Montalban, an anchor at radio DxSY in Ozamiz City.

But he adds: "The agenda must hopefully follow."

Mindanao pick

Montalban has been reminding listeners of his afternoon public affairs program over radio DxSY to consider a "Mindanao pick" in their choices for senator.

At one time, Montalban even exhorted: "*Kung pwede gani kanang taga ato ra atong botaran!* (If possible, we should only vote for those from Mindanao)."

In the 13th Congress, only Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. is from Mindanao, emerging as the lone winner from among seven aspirants from the island.

In the current senatorial race, Pimentel's son Aquilino III and Zubiri are in the running for a berth in the 12 seats.

Traditionally, political parties tailor their national slates based on regional voters' pull, with special reference to the need to court the Mindanao vote.

Accounting for about a fourth of the country's population, Mindanao people and leaders are unified on the perception of the island's neglect by the national government. But historically, this has not transformed into a common basis to unify behind a candidate or candidates.

Judging by how the campaign discourse of senatorial candidates are generally tailored, the race proved to be a continuing battle between the Arroyo administration and forces out to oust the president from power.

Even the exhortation of most local officials in Misamis Occidental and Lanao del Norte for Team Unity are hewed along this paradigm of the mid-term election as an "Arroyo referendum."

This has also sacrificed the discussion of a Mindanao agenda as basis for soliciting support.

Leading Mindanao issues put forward by local government leaders, civil society and intellectuals as requiring attention include the ticklish question of the island's share in national wealth and the question of Moro self-governance which has a major bearing on the peace effort.

The Gentleman from ... ?

By Nash B. Maulana
Cotabato City

CONGRESSIONAL CANDIdates seeking to represent Shariff Kabunsuan could be running for nothing with the ruling of the Commission on Elections that the congressional district in the newly created province does not constitutionally exist.

Even flamboyant lawyer-candidate Didagen Dilangalen, the former Maguindanao congressman, was at a loss over the issue.

Dilangalen, who became a national irritant for the "shut up, shut up" episode in the Estrada impeachment case, preferred silence this time. He is seeking to represent Shariff Kabunsuan's "lone congressional seat" against Bai Sandra Sema.

Certified by the Office of the President as the country's 78th province, Shariff Kabunsuan is composed of 11 municipalities formerly comprising the first district of Maguindanao.

The Regional Legislative Assembly (RLA) of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao created the province in 2006 under the Muslim Mindanao Act No. 201. It is empowered under Republic Act No. 9054 or the ARMM Law to create provinces in its jurisdiction.

Not empowered

However, RA 9054, authored by Basilan Rep. Abdul Gani Salapuddin, did not empower the RLA to create a congressional district—a legislative function that solely belongs to Congress, according to the 1987 Constitution.

Because of this, Rey Sumalipao, Comelec director for ARMM, said congressional candidates in Shariff Kabunsuan should still be campaigning as aspirants for representative of Maguindanao's first district—which includes Cotabato City—instead of Shariff Kabunsuan.

Maguindanao still has the legislative district that is now being contested by the two candidates, Sumalipao said. He cited the Comelec en banc Resolution No. 7813 dated Jan. 24, 2007:

"... the creation of the provinces of Dinagat and Shariff Kabunsuan did not reduce the number of legislative districts of the provinces of Surigao del Norte and Maguindanao, respectively, as these provinces remain to be made up of two legislative districts."

Congress act

Former Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong, who is running unopposed in Maguindanao's second district, said the provision in RA 9054 empowering the ARMM to create a province was highly irregular. Only Congress is empowered with "reapportionment of legislative district, within three years following ... every census," under Section 4, Article VI of the Constitution, he said.

While it is true that every province is entitled to at least one congressional district, the constitutional presumption is that the creation of a province, city, municipality or congressional district is done solely through the act of Congress, as in the case of Dinagat Island, Datumanong said.

He noted that the country's congressional districts were listed in an ordinance of the 1987 Constitution, which forms part and parcel of the Charter that was included along with its ratification.

Empowering the RLA to create legislative districts was just like allowing the regional legislative body to alter that part of the Constitution, he said.

"Therefore, such a regional power frustrates the same constitutional wisdom that every province is entitled to have at least one congressional district or representation," he said.

Jonas' mother forgives, but search continues

From page A1

the gathering. Printed on the tarp was a poignant question in Filipino: "What is Mother's Day without a child?"

In anguish

"Mother's Day is supposed to be a beautiful occasion, but most of us here are in anguish," said Techie, Jonas' elder sister. "What is time to a mother who is looking for her child? Every minute, every hour, every day counts."

Her voice cracking, Erlinda Cadapan, mother of the missing University of the Philippines student Sherlyn Cadapan, recalled kneeling and praying for divine guidance when she learned that her daughter had been taken by armed men from a house in Hagonoy, Bulacan.

Sherlyn, then 19, was abducted in June last year along with Karen Empeño, another student at UP Diliman.

According to Cadapan, the abductors have also been traced to the 56th IB.

Cadapan said that at the hearing for a habeas corpus petition filed by the Cadapan and Empeño families before the Court of Appeals, the main suspect, now retired Lt. Gen. Jovito Palparan, showed up with a truckload of security escorts.

'A coward, after all'

"*Duwag din pala* (He's a coward, after all)," she said.

Cadapan admitted that she was seething with hatred of the Armed Forces, the government and President Macapagal-Arroyo, for the latter's apparent failure to control the military and enforce discipline among the troops.

"The Lord knows the government knows where my daughter is," the mother said. "They should give her back to me alive, because they took her alive."

Sherlyn and Karen were among the 77 activists reported missing last year alone by the Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance (FIND), an organization founded in 1985 by friends and kin of *desaparecidos*.

FIND has documented 188 forced disappearances from January 2001, when Ms Arroyo assumed power, until March 2007.

'Is it a crime?'

Lolita Robinos, a resident of Angeles, Pampanga, said she also lost her youngest son, Romulo, to a group of soldiers from the 69th IB who "raided my house like thieves" on Nov. 17, 2006.

She said the soldiers were looking for her daughter Lenie, an activist. When they could not find her, they took Romulo, then 25.

"Is it a crime to be an activist? If Lenie is an activist, and Romulo is not, why take Romulo?" Robinos said.

Beth Calubad broke into tears as she recalled the day she lost her husband and their son also to the military, on June 17, 2006, in Calauag, Quezon.

Calubad said her husband, Rogelio, was a consultant for the National Democratic Front, the political arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

"I am not ashamed to say he was working for the masses," she said. "I am proud of his work, for which he was not paid. That's why I had to work to raise the family."

But Calubad said their son Gabriel, then 29, was just a barangay technician who just happened to be with his father on the day they were abducted.

"They may have killed my husband because he was their mortal enemy. What about my son? He was not their mortal enemy," Calubad said.

"They stole my child from me," she said, weeping.

JOAN BONDOC

ENDLESSLY MISSED
Mothers of the missing gather for a Mother's Day fellowship at the Good Shepherd Convent in Cubao, Quezon City, on Saturday. Some of those present are from left: Linda Cadapan with photos of daughter Sherlyn and Karen Empeno both abducted in Hagonoy, Bulacan last year; Elizabeth Calubad with photos of husband Rudy and son Gabriel abducted in Calauag, Quezon; Edith Burgos with photo of Jonas abducted in Metro Manila, the first since 1999 and Lolita Robinos, mother of Romulo Robinos kidnapped in Angeles, Pampanga, last year.

Nuns hold vigil for the missing

By Fe Zamora

EVERY HOUR FOR ALMOST TWO weeks now, a group of Carmelite nuns and sisters have been imploring the heavens to enlighten those holding Jonas Burgos and all other victims of forced disappearance to return them to their families.

Jonas' mother, Edita Burgos, said some 50 Carmelite communities were holding the prayer vigils for Jonas and the other *desaparecidos*. "We share in the grace," she told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Burgos took her perpetual vow as a member of the Order of the Discalced (or Barefoot) Carmelites last year. But she had been going to the nunnery for eight years.

"We are also contemplative, but we live in the real world," she said, by way of explaining the nature of her life as a "barefoot Carmelite."

Among the Carmelites, there are friars, nuns and lay people like herself, Burgos said.

All these groups are contemplative, but the lay people are either single or married individuals who wish to live the life of a contemplative Carmelite outside the monastery.

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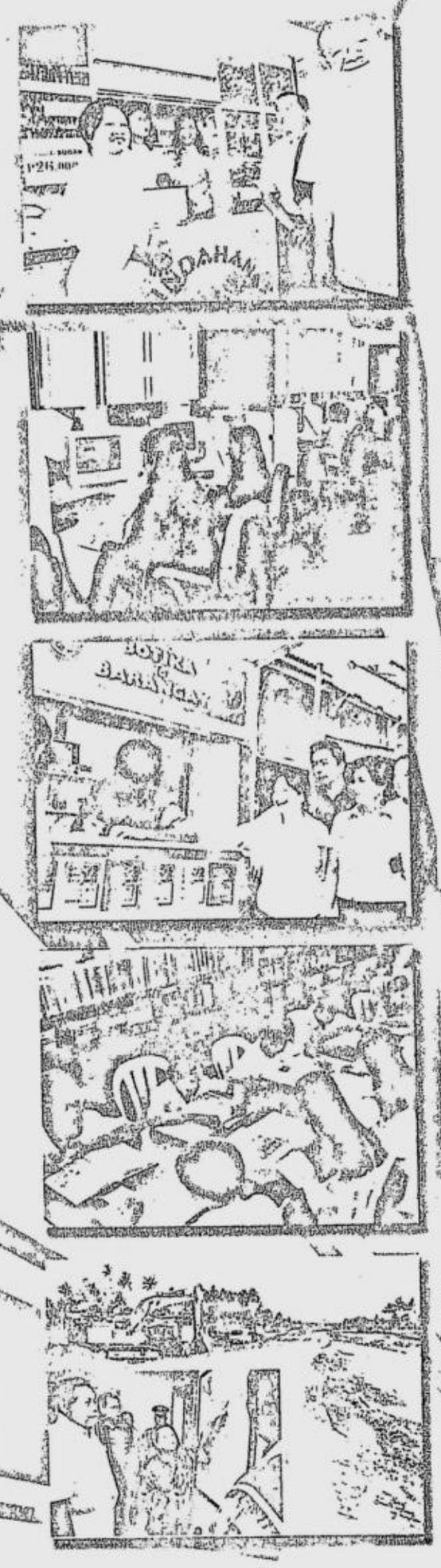

Sa mga PAUTANG na PUHUNAN sa mga maliliit na negosyo.

Sa Dumadaming NAMUMUHUNAN at asenso sa TRABAHO.

Sa dekalidad na pangangalaga ng KALUSUGAN.

Sa tumataas na antas at kondisyon ng EDUKASYON.

Sa lumalawak na IMPRASTRAKTURA na nagpapabilis ng pag-unlad at serbisyo.

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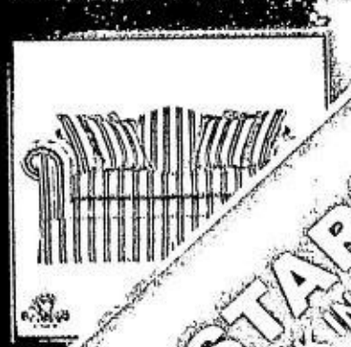
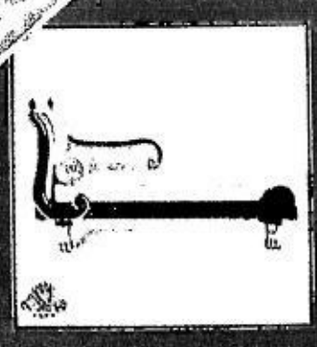

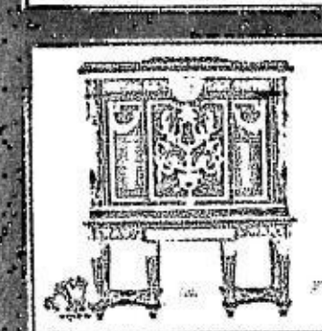

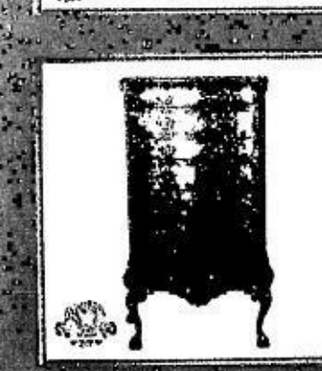
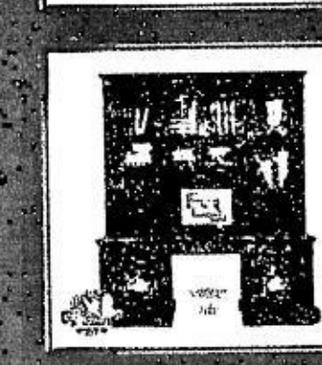

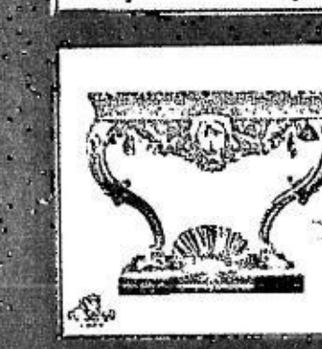

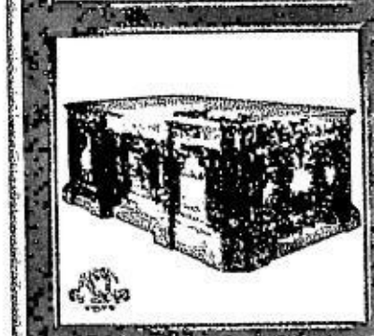
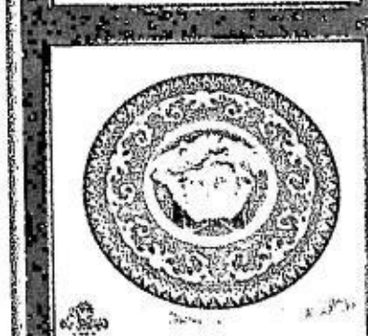
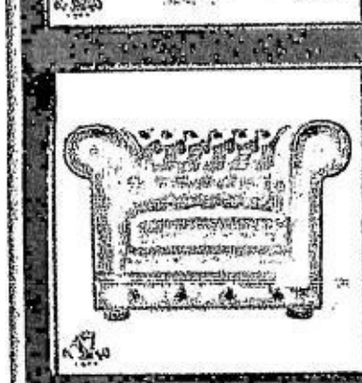
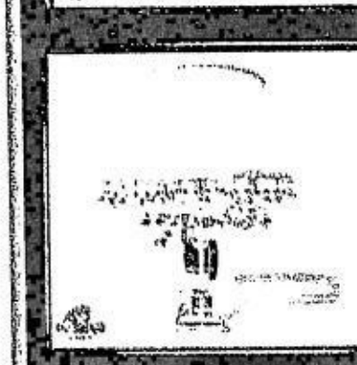
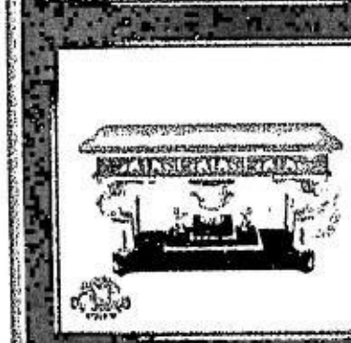
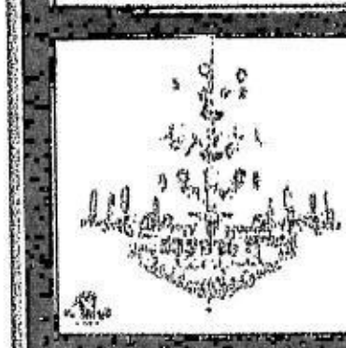

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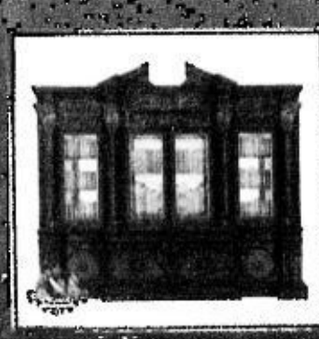

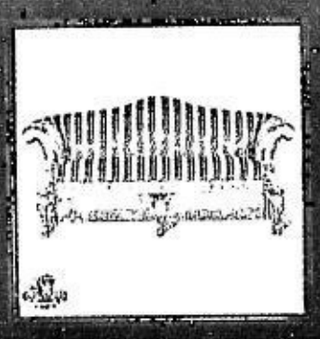

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A HANDBOOK FOR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ELECTION INSPECTORS

This Handbook for Members of the Board of Election Inspectors was made possible with support from The Asia Foundation through a grant provided by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). The opinions expressed here are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Asia Foundation or the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

MESSAGE

Time and again the competency and proficiency of the Commission on Elections to conduct an honest, peaceful and credible elections has been put to test. And public opinion continually finds fault in the Commission's integrity in executing its mandated task. In the end, the electorate has come to doubt the value of their votes. Even to the point of finding no relevance in participating in the electoral process.

What have we done? The Constitutional mandate to conduct an honest, orderly and peaceful elections is bestowed upon our shoulders. And there is no other way to go about it than to equip ourselves with the armor of knowledge that will enable us to sufficiently promote the sanctity of the ballot and, in the process, raise awareness of its significance in a nation under the rule of democracy.

True, to undertake this task is not easy. Some say it is impossible. But as long as we know the proper procedures to be undertaken to ensure the efficiency of conducting a peaceful, orderly and credible elections, we are on the right track. And that is why, the Commission has embarked on the mission to educate its so-called "frontliners" and "volunteer allies" as they get on with their assignment – to be sufficiently enabled to protect the integrity of the ballot.

Alan Keys once said: "The act of voting is one opportunity for us to remember that our whole way of life is predicated on the capacity of ordinary people to judge carefully and well." When a person casts his vote, he not only exercises a lawful right; he decides the path and quality of his life. Let us be guided by this thought as each of us execute our mandated task this May 2007 elections.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS
Chairman

Teachers perform an important role in society.

They facilitate the learning process that our children undergo to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for advancement. They mold the youth into becoming productive and responsible citizens through the values they impart. They serve as role models for the community, especially to the young.

The Filipino teacher is also mandated to perform a vital function in the exercise of our country's electoral process. As frontline workers during elections, the Filipino teacher ensures that our democratic way of life is promoted and sustained. This is made possible through a commitment to public service that is expected of each and every teacher.

In recognition of all Filipino teachers and the importance of their role in the coming national elections, the Department of Education is exerting all efforts to assist them in fulfilling their constitutionally mandated duties. At DepEd, therefore, we have given emphasis on ensuring that our teachers are well-equipped to discharge their electoral duties as we too look at ensuring that their welfare is safeguarded.

This Handbook provides our teachers informative and practical knowledge that will empower them to deal with situations that they may encounter during the elections. As such, it will empower them to accomplish their tasks, in accordance with our desire to have clean, honest and orderly elections.

I invite all teachers to read this book so that it can serve as their guide for this coming polls.

It is my hope that this effort will result in the proper conduct of elections and in the recognition of the true value of the Filipino teacher as election worker and role model.

JESLIA LAPUS
Secretary

We live in a culture of division, distrust and disobedience. A culture that also extends to our elections. To address this cultural challenge and to manifest that three different groups can actually work together and enjoy doing so, trust each other and become friends, and consequently find no difficulty obeying unwritten rules on collaboration, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) did something wonderful, something never done before. The triad in the electoral exercise – the election officer, the teacher and the pollwatcher – clasped hands, minds and hearts to write a common handbook for the Board of Election Inspectors.

This ***Handbook for Members of the Board of Election Inspectors*** is the fruit of that collaborative effort. It is a concise compilation of all General Instructions on elections. The drafters tried as best as they could to use language that is as non-technical as possible, and for practical reasons and clarity informative illustrations have been added. The Handbook laid out for public domain the otherwise voluminous and legalistic GIs as an accessible instructive guidebook on casting, as well as counting of votes.

We are happy to offer this ***Handbook for Members of the Board of Election Inspectors*** to our cherished teachers who are the guardian angels of every voting precinct in the Philippines. This Handbook is a recognition of the "human capital" you invest in the voting precincts you serve. It is also an offering from our hearts for the enrichment of the "human capability" your work in supervising the casting and counting of votes requires.

PPCRV thanks again and again the COMELEC, DepEd, The Asia Foundation, and the Australian Agency for International Development.

In the end what we hope to achieve is to make elections a beautiful experience of charity, integrity and truth for the election officers, the teachers, the pollwatchers most of all the Filipino voters. Amartya Sen said it beautifully, *"Human beings are not merely the means of production, but also the end of the exercise."*

HENRIETTA T. DE VILLA
PPCRV National Chairperson

ELECTORAL VALUES

THE POWER OF ONE VOTE

Can one person truly make a difference?

An old man walking along the beach at dawn noticed a young man ahead of him picking up starfish and throwing them one by one into the sea. He went up to the lad and asked him why he was doing this. The youth told him that the starfish would die if left exposed to the heat of the sun. The old man countered, "But son, this beach stretches several miles and there are thousands of starfish in the ocean. How can your effort make a difference?" The young man looked at the starfish in his hand, and said, "It makes a difference to this one." And he threw it into the safety of the waves.

Each one of us, and all of us can make a difference. No matter how utterly insignificant our one act may seem to be – as a voter, as a pollwatcher, as a member of the BEI.

In a democracy, a single vote has the same value as all the votes cast. It is the great equalizer which does not exclude anyone by reason of gender, social status, ethnicity, and educational attainment. Your vote represents your dignity and your right as a citizen of this country. Your vote also demands from you the responsibility to use it with wisdom and truth. It has been common practice to complain that government is remiss in upholding our rights, not realizing that this came about because we are remiss in our duty to vote for the right person. One vote, your vote, is the foundation of your democracy.

Think now...our collective response born from one vote freely given for the common good should spell the difference for our country.

Your handbook is mainly based on the 2007 General Instructions (GI) for the Board of Election Inspectors issued by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC). A legal document, the GI is the official guide to election policies and procedures. Your handbook is a shortened version of the GI, designed to suggest to you easy-tofollow steps and quick answers to the most common problems and issues before, during, and after Election Day. It is a product of the collective and mutual effort of the COMELEC, Department of Education, and the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting.

ELECTORAL ACTORS

This Section contains basic information about the prime movers on Election Day. You can use this section to check the qualifications, rights, and basic responsibilities of electoral actors.

THE BOARD OF ELECTION INSPECTORS

A. Appointment
1. Appointed by the Election Officer for each precinct or cluster of precincts
2. Composition.
   a. Chairman
   b. Member 1/Poll Clerk
   c. Member 2

Sec 1 GI

B. Membership
All members of the Board of Election Inspectors (BEIs) should be public school teachers, with preference to those with permanent appointments. In case of shortage, private school teachers, government employees, or citizens of known probity and competence who are registered voters of the city or municipality may be appointed. However, the BEI Chairman should always be a public school teacher.

Sec 1 and 2 GI

C. Qualifications
A BEI member –
1. must be of good moral character and have an irreproachable reputation in the community
2. must be a registered voter of the city or municipality
3. must not have been convicted of any election offense or of any other crime punishable by more than six (6) months of imprisonment
4. must have no pending case filed against him/her for any election offense
5. must be able to speak and write in English or the local dialect
6. he/she or his/her spouse must not be related up to the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity (please see illustration on page 5) to any other member of the same BEI, or to any candidate or his/her spouse, to be voted for in the polling place where he/she is assigned

Sec 2 and 4 GI

If you are uncertain about the degree of relationship, see your supervisor or Election Officer.

Procedural Advisory

Note: It is an election offense to accept an appointment as BEI and actually serve as a member when one is not eligible (Sec. 261 (bb) (3), Omnibus Election Code (OEC)), or to deliberately absent oneself on Election Day with an intent to obstruct or delay the performance of his/her duties (Sec. 261 (bb) (1), OEC). Member(s) of the BEI present may order the arrest of any member who they think absented himself/herself with the view of obstructing the performance of his/her functions.

Sec 7, GI

D. Temporary Vacancies
1. If a member is absent or the office is still vacant, the members present shall call on a substitute from the list submitted by the District Supervisors.
2. If the substitute is unavailable, any qualified, non-partisan registered voter of the precinct may be appointed by the BEI.
3. The substitute shall serve until such time that the absent member appears or the vacancy is filled.
4. The District Supervisor concerned shall submit to the Election Officer a list of teachers to act as substitutes in case of vacancy in the BEI.

Sec 6, GI

ELECTORAL ACTORS

E. Powers and Functions
The BEI shall have the following powers and functions –
1. Conduct the voting and counting of votes in their respective polling places.
2. Supervise and control the election in their assigned polling places on behalf of the COMELEC.
3. Maintain order within the polling place and within its vicinity and keep it accessible; and order in writing a Peace Officer (police) to take into custody any person who disturbs the proceedings or disobeys its lawful orders.
4. Perform other functions prescribed by the COMELEC, the Omnibus Election Code, and other election laws.

Sec 8, GI

F. Proceedings
The BEI shall decide all questions by majority vote and shall act through its Chairman.

Sec 9, GI

G. Prohibition Against Political Activity
The BEI shall not engage in any partisan political activity or take part in the elections except to discharge his/her duties and to vote.

Sec 10 GI

H. Code of Conduct
The BEI –
1. must respect and uphold the law
2. must be non-partisan
3. must be transparent
4. must be accurate
5. must serve the voters efficiently and professionally

POLL WATCHERS

A. Qualifications
The pollwatcher –
1. must be a qualified voter in the city or municipality of the precinct where he/she is assigned.
2. must be of good reputation.
3. must have never been convicted by final judgment of any election offense or of any other crime.
4. must be able to read and write in Pilipino, English, or any of the prevailing local dialects.
5. must not be related up to the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to any member of the BEI in the precinct where he/she seeks appointment.
6. must not be an appointive or elective barangay official, including barangay tanod.

Sec 13, GI

B. Rights and Duties
The pollwatchers have the right to –
1. Witness and inform themselves of the proceedings of the BEI.
2. Take note of what they may observe.
3. Take photographs of the proceedings, including incidents during the counting of the votes.
4. Take photographs of election returns, tally board, and ballot boxes.
5. File a protest against any irregularity or violation of law by the BEI or by an individual member or by any person.
6. Obtain from the BEI the necessary certificate or document related to the filing of the protest and/or of the resolution of the protest.

Sec 14, GI

7. Read the ballot while it is being read by the Chairman.
8. Read the election returns without touching it while it is being completed and signed by the BEI.

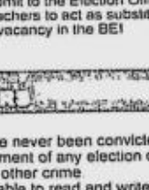
Sec 12, RA 6646

9. Be furnished, upon request, a Certificate of Votes cast for the candidates, signed and thumb-marked by the BEI.

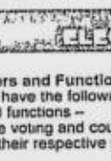
Sec 14, GI

Note: Watchers shall not speak to the BEI, to any voter, or among themselves, in a disturbing manner.
The six (6) principal watchers, if available, shall affix their signatures and thumb marks in the Election Returns.

Sec 14, GI



THE CITIZENS' ARM POLLWATCHER



A. Appointment
Every Citizens' Arm duly accredited by the COMELEC may appoint two (2) watchers in every polling place who shall serve alternately.

Sec 12, GI

B. Code of Conduct
Observing fundamental ethical principles, the watcher must be –
1. non-partisan.
2. comprehensive in their review of the election, considering all relevant circumstances.
3. transparent and accurate in their observation.

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (1997) Code of Conduct Ethical and Professional Observation of Elections. Stockholm, Sweden: Bredbma Gamsons Boktryckeri AB

THE CANDIDATE AND PARTY POLLWATCHER

A. Appointment
1. Candidates, political parties or coalition of political parties duly registered with the COMELEC and fielding candidates in the May 14, 2007 elections are entitled to two (2) pollwatchers who shall serve alternately.
2. Party lists are also entitled to two (2) pollwatchers who shall serve alternately.
3. Candidates for Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Sangguniang Panlungsod or Sangguniang Bayan belonging to the same ticket or slate shall collectively be entitled to two (2) watchers who shall serve alternately.

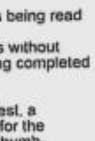
Sec 12, GI

OTHER GROUPS

Appointment
If duly authorized by the COMELEC, other civic, religious, professional, business, service, youth, and any other similar organizations shall collectively be entitled to two (2) pollwatchers in every polling place who shall serve alternately.

Note: In cases where all watchers cannot be accommodated inside the polling place because of limited space, the watchers of the Citizens' Arm and the six accredited major political parties as determined by COMELEC shall be given priority. Of those seven, the Citizens' Arm watcher should position himself/herself nearest to the BEI.

Sec 12, GI



THE FOREIGN OBSERVER

A. Accreditation
Foreign observers must be accredited by the COMELEC and issued individual identification cards.

B. Rights
Foreign observers may –
1. interview or brief any official of government, representatives of registered political parties, organization or coalitions, candidates or their representatives, representatives of media, private firms or organizations, any political party or candidate.
2. observe the ongoing registration and validation of voters and other election preparation activities at the offices of the election officers.
3. observe the conduct of elections in any locality, interview voters, political leaders and other individuals outside the polling place, and document these by means of audio, visual, or audio-visual recordings.
4. observe the counting of votes by the BEIs and canvassing of results of votes conducted by the municipal, city, provincial, district and regional Boards of Canvassers.

COMELEC Resolution No. 7802

C. Prohibited Acts
A foreigner may not –
1. directly or indirectly aid any candidate or political party.
2. take part or influence the election in any manner.
3. contribute in any election campaign or partisan political activity.
4. enter any polling place during the voting hours.
5. enter places reserved for voters or for the BEI.
6. mingle or talk with voters inside the polling place.

COMELEC Resolution No. 7802

THE MEDIA WATCHER

A. Accreditation
Media representatives must be accredited by the COMELEC and issued a non-transferable media card, which should always be worn while covering the electoral event for the duration that the media card was issued.

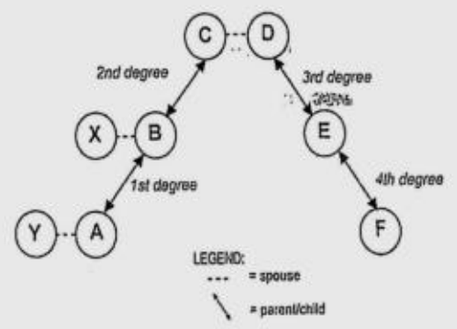
B. Rights
The media shall be allowed maximum access to all stages of the electoral process subject only to conditions essential for the protection of COMELEC personnel, property, and privileged information.

COMELEC Resolution No. 7803

C. Rules of Conduct
1. Not more than three (3) media representatives shall be allowed inside the polling place at any one time.
2. Upon entry into the polling places, the media representatives must present their Media Cards to the BEI.
3. Media representatives must refrain from engaging in unprofessional activities such as:
   a. disturbing the conduct of the election including but not limited to conducting interviews inside the polling place or canvassing center
   b. engaging in partisan activities
   c. influencing the voters (e.g. directly trying to sway the voter, speaking for or against any candidate, etc.)
   d. distributing campaign materials
   e. exhibiting any behavior deemed unlawful

COMELEC Resolution No. 7803

PROCESS OF COUNTING THE DEGREE OF CONSANGUINITY/ AFFINITY



To determine relationship by consanguinity or affinity, count from the person up to the common ancestor then downwards to the other person with whom you are establishing the degree of kinship. Each descending or ascending line between two persons is counted as one degree. The number of ascending or descending lines between two persons refers to the degree in which they are related.

Examples:
Consanguinity – Using A as a reference point in the illustration, from A to his father B is one degree, from A to his grandmother C is two degrees, from A to his uncle E is three degrees; and from A to his first cousin F is four degrees.

Affinity – Using Y (A's wife) as reference point, from Y to her father-in-law B is one degree; from Y to her grandfather-in-law D is two degrees, from Y to her uncle-in-law E is three degrees, and from Y to her first cousin-in-law F is four degrees.

Note: If you are uncertain of the degree of relationship, see your supervisor or Election Officer.

PREPARATIONS BEFORE ELECTION DAY

Unless otherwise stated, this section contains procedural advisories only, designed to help you ensure that things will run smoothly on Election Day.

A. Briefing
You shall be invited to a special training to prepare you for your duties during elections. This training will be conducted by trainers designated by DepEd who have previously received a trainers' training from the Election Officer and DepEd.

B. The Polling Place
It is the duty of the Election Officer to inspect the polling place and see if –
1. all the furniture needed is available.
2. there is a storage area for the furniture that will not be needed.
3. there is enough lighting for voters.
4. there is enough lighting for counting in the evening.
5. no other polling place is assigned to the room.

However, you may be asked to assist the Election Officer.

C. Election Materials
1. When authorized by the COMELEC, you should visit the Office of the City or Municipal Treasurer to check your election supplies on the date scheduled by the Election Officer.
2. See to it that all the materials are complete by checking them against the Certificate of Receipt *(CE Form No. 14)*.
3. The materials are classified either as Non-Essential or Essential materials.
4. Inform the Treasurer if there are supplies or documents which are missing, particularly the essential materials. You cannot conduct the polling unless you have these materials.
5. After checking the materials, you should deposit them in the ballot box.
6. Lock the box with the three (3) padlocks provided you. Each member of the BEI will keep one key.
7. Return the ballot box to the Treasurer.
8. Do not sign the Certificate of Receipt yet. You should only sign it when you get your ballot boxes on election day.
9. Proceed to the Office of the Election Officer to get the documents and forms which will be distributed by their office, e.g. Election Day Computerized List of Voters (EDCVL), Posted Computerized List of Voters (PCVL), List of Deactivated Voters, Book of Voters, etc.

Note: You should make use of this visit to see if transportation will be available when you get your ballot boxes and supplies from the Treasurer's Office on the day of the election. Set as well the meeting time with your fellow BEI members.

A HANDBOOK FOR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ELECTION INSPECTORS

PREPARATIONS BEFORE ELECTION DAY

LIST OF ELECTION MATERIALS

CEF NO	FORMS AND SUPPLIES	RATE OF DISTRIBUTION	
3	Poster indicating Precinct Number	1	Piece
4	Certified List of Candidates for Senator, Party-List System of Representation, Member, House of Representatives; Governor; Vice-Governor; Member, Provincial Board; City/Municipal Mayor and City/Municipal Councilor	12	Copies
6	Official Ballots	1	Piece per voter + 3 per precinct
9	Election Returns	1	Set
10	Tally Board	1	Set
11	Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes	1	Set of 2 pcs
12	Paper Seals	25	Pieces
13	Certificate of Votes	20	Pieces
14	Certificate of Receipt of Official Ballots, Other Forms and Supplies by BEI	3	Pieces
27 to 27-D	Official Receipt of Election Returns - copy for the Election Officer, copy for the Board Canvassers, copy for the Dominant Majority Party, copy for the Dominant Minority Party, copy for the Citizen's Arm	10	Pieces
	ENVELOPE FOR VOTING AND COUNTING		
15, 16, 16-A 16-B, 16-C, 16-d, and 28	for Counted Official Ballots Excess, Marked, Spoiled, Torn Half of Unused Official Ballots, Other Half of Torn Unused Official Ballots and Official Ballots	7	Pieces
17, 17-B to 17-G	for Election Returns - copy for the City/Municipal Board of Canvassers, copy for the Commission, copy for Provincial Board of Canvassers, copy for Dominant Majority Party, copy for Dominant Minority Party, copy for Accredited Citizens' Arm, copy for Ballot Box	1	Set of 7 pcs.
	OTHER ENVELOPES		
18 & 18-A	For Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes	1	Set of 2 pcs
19, 19-A & 19-B	For Key of Ballot Boxes	1	Set of 3 pcs
	OTHER FORMS		
30/31	Temporary Appointment of Chairman / Poll Clerk/ Member	10	Pieces
33/35	Certificate of Challenge or Protest and Decision of the Board	10	Pieces
39	Oath of Voter Challenged for Illegal Acts	10	Pieces
40	Oath of Identification of Challenged Voter	10	Pieces
41	Summons Re Challenged Voter	10	Pieces
	COMELEC Pass	2	Pieces/mun
	General Instructions for BEI	3	Copies
	SUPPLIES		
	Ballpen	13	Pieces
	Bond Paper Long	30	Pieces
	Carbon Paper	5	Sheets
	Rubber Band	10	Pieces
	Padlocks	3	Pieces
	Thumbprint/Fingerprint Takers	2	Pieces
	Self-locking Fixed Length Seals	2	Pieces
	Indelible Stained Ink	2	Bottles
	Ballot Secrecy Folders	12	Pieces
	Ballot Boxes	1	Piece

Sec. 15, GI

PREPARATIONS BEFORE ELECTION DAY

FORMS TO BE PREPARED WHEN NEEDED

The following forms may be reproduced when the need arises:

- Temporary Appointment of Chairman/Poll Clerk/Member
- Certificate of Challenge or Protest and Decision of the BEI
- Oath of Voter Challenged for Illegal Acts
- Oath of Identification of Challenged Voter
- Summons re Challenged Voter

Sec. 17, GI

BOOK OF VOTERS AND COMPUTERIZED VOTERS' LIST

Each precinct shall be given the following voter's registry:

- One (1) copy of the Book of Voters, which shall be in the custody of the Poll Clerk
- One (1) copy of EDCVL, which shall be in the custody of the Chairman
- Two (2) copies of the PCVL, one copy shall be in the custody of the Chairman and the other copy is posted at the door of the polling place
- Two (2) copies of the List of Deactivated Voters, which shall be in the custody of the third member

Sec. 18, GI

VOTERS' ASSISTANCE DESKS

The Election Officer may request a Citizens' Arm to put up a voters' assistance desk in a highly visible area in front of every voting center.

Through the voters' assistance desk, the volunteers of the Citizens' Arms may –

1. help voters find their names in the voters' list.
2. locate their assigned polling places.
3. answer questions on procedures and rules.

Volunteers manning these desks are expected to be –

1. familiar with the entire voting center and the voters' list.
2. knowledgeable on pertinent election laws and COMELEC resolutions.

Note: The Citizens' Arms may put up locator charts outside the polling place to guide the voters. For example,

Precinct 1-A Room 1
Precinct 1-B Room 2

PPCRV Poll Watching Manual 2007 Revised Edition, p. 10

ELECTION DAY

With some **PROCEDURAL ADVISORIES** complementing the GI provisions, the timeline and procedures below can give you a general idea of how things should go on May 14.

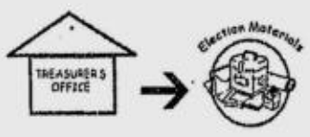
Before 6:00 AM

- Allot enough travel time from your residence to the Treasurer's Office and to your assigned polling places.

Procedural Advisory

- Get your election materials from the Treasurer's Office.

Sec. 15, GI



- Check on the completeness of your materials and deposit them in the ballot boxes.
- Lock the ballot box with the three padlocks provided you. Each of the BEI shall have one key corresponding to one of the padlocks.
- Sign the Certificate of Receipt, in three (3) copies, retaining one copy for your records.

Sec. 15, GI

6:00 AM

- Arrive at the polling place.

Sec. 24, GI

6:01 AM to 6:59 AM

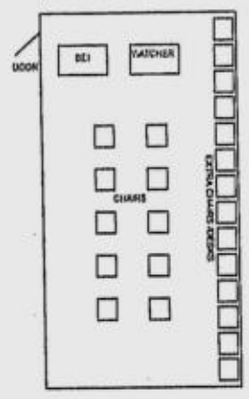
- Appoint a substitute in case a BEI member is absent. *Sec. 6, GI*
- Ask the janitor to remove all election campaign materials posted within a 50-meter radius from the polling place.

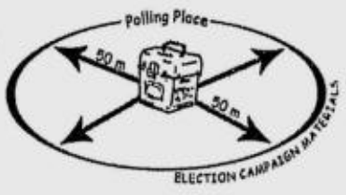
Procedural Advisory

- Structure your polling place
  a. Arrange desks for BEI and watchers near the entrance, where the watchers' chairs are near the BEI's desks
  b. Arrange ten (10) desks far apart from each other so that a voter cannot see what the other voter is writing on his ballot
  c. Move desks and chairs that will not be used to the side of the room.

Procedural Advisory

POLLING PLACE MAP

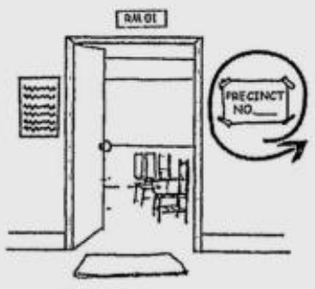




6:01 AM to 6:59 AM

- The Poll Clerk shall –
  a. cross out names of voters excluded by order of the court in all copies of the PCVL, and write: *Excluded by court order dated _____ issued by Judge _____*
  b. write names of voters included by order of court, and note: *Included by court order dated _____ issued by Judge_____*
- The Chairman shall do the same in all copies of the EDCVL.
- Paste one (1) copy of the PCVL (best if this is detached and individual pages pasted to prevent crowding voters) and the List of Deactivated Voters on the left side of the door to the polling place.
- Post the sign with the precinct number on the right side of the wall outside the entrance.

Sec. 24, GI



- Allow the observers and watchers inside the polling place.
- They should present appointment letters to the BEI Chairman.
- BEI Chairman or Poll Clerk records their names in the Minutes of the Voting and Counting of Votes; and asks them to sign beside their names to certify that they are qualified to be watchers.

Sec. 14, GI

- Open the ballot box and take out the materials.
- Chairman shall show the empty ballot box to the watchers and observers.
- Three (3) members of the BEI lock the interior compartment with the padlocks and keep one (1) key each.

Reminder: The interior compartment of the ballot box may not be sealed without watchers or observers present. If they do not arrive when polling is about to open, the inner compartment may be shown and sealed in front of the waiting voters instead.

Note: Do not seal the ballot box. Do not experiment with the self-locking fixed length seal to determine whether it will work. Once it is locked, it can never be opened.

- Show the watchers the sealed package of official ballots and Book of Voters.
- Poll clerk shall record in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes such fact including the number of pads of ballots and the serial numbers of the ballots in each pad (e.g., 0001 to 00099 etc.), as well as the fact that the package of ballots and Book of Voters were shown to the public with the seals intact.
- Break the seals.

Sec. 24, GI

- Put the ballot box on top of your table in front of the Chairman.
- Chairman shall have the EDCVL, the PCVL, and the thumbprint-taker.
- Poll clerk shall have a copy of the Book of Voters and the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes.
- Third member shall have the bottle containing the indelible stain ink.
- Arrange the materials on the tables for the voters –
  a. Staple or paste inside the Ballot Secrecy Folders the certified list of candidates and parties.
  b. Place the folders on the tables.

Sec. 24, GI

  c. Place ballpens on the tables.

Procedural Advisory

7:00 AM

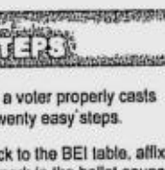
- Open the polling place.
- Ask voters to form a straight line in the order of their arrival in the voting place. They are to cast their votes in the same order.

Sec. 28, GI

3:00 PM

- Close the polling place.

Sec. 22, GI



SOME RULES TO REMEMBER DURING VOTING

Who are allowed to vote?

1. Registered voters of the precinct whose voter registration records are contained in the Book of Voters, or whose names appear in the EDCVL and those ordered by the courts to be included in the list of voters
2. Members of the BEI and their substitutes may vote in their assigned polling place provided –
   - they are registered voters of the city or municipality where they are assigned, except in the National Capital Region, highly urbanized cities and other cities that are divided into councilor districts where they should be registered voters within the same councilor district where they are assigned;
   - their voting in the polling place where they are not registered should be noted in Part C of the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes; and
   - their names and precinct number where they are actually registered are indicated in the EDCVL.

Sec. 20, GI

During the voting, you must see to it that –

1. no watcher enters the places reserved for the voters or BEIs, or mingles or talks with the voters;
2. no voter prepares his ballot without using a ballot secrecy folder or shows the contents of his ballot to any person;
3. no ballot is brought outside the polling place;
4. no person carrying any firearm or any other deadly weapon enters the polling place except those expressly authorized by COMELEC;
5. voters vote in the order of their arrival in the polling place; and
6. there is no crowding of voters and disorderly behavior inside the polling place.

Sec. 25, GI

Who are the people allowed in and around the polling place?

1. Members of the BEI
2. Watchers who shall stay only in the spaces reserved for them
3. Representatives of COMELEC
4. Voters casting their vote
5. Voters waiting for their turn to vote
6. Voters waiting for their turn to get their ballots
7. Others who may be specifically authorized by COMELEC

Sec. 26, GI

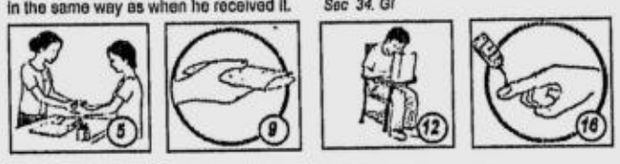
VOTING: TWENTY EASY STEPS

One of the challenging aspects of the elections is seeing to it that a voter properly casts his/her vote. This section describes how this should be done, in twenty easy steps.

1. Voter looks for his/her name in the PCVL posted outside the polling place.
2. Voter approaches the Chairman and gives his name, address, and other information; voter may be asked to present proper identification, if identity is challenged.
3. Chairman checks voter's name in the EDCVL. If voter's name is not included in the EDCVL, the Poll Clerk shall look for his/her Voter's Registration Record in the Book of Voters, or the list provided by the Court.
4. If the voter's name is listed in any of the above-mentioned documents, the Chairman announces the voter's name loud enough to be heard all throughout the polling place.
5. Before giving the voter the ballot, the Chairman checks if the voter's right index fingernail (or any other fingernail if there is no right index finger) is stained with indelible ink.
6. If it is stained the voter will not be given a ballot and such fact shall be recorded by the Poll Clerk in Part C of the Minutes of Voting and Casting of Votes.
7. If his/her fingernail(s) is not stained, the Chairman announces the serial number of the ballot to be issued and signs on the back of the ballot to authenticate it.
8. Chairman records the serial number of the ballot on the corresponding space labeled "Ballot SN" below the name of the voter on the EDCVL.
9. Chairman folds the ballot in such a manner that its face, except the portion where the serial number appears, is covered, and gives it to the voter.
10. The voter affixes his/her signature or thumb mark (for physically-challenged voters) on the corresponding space on the EDCVL.
11. Chairman directs the voter to a desk for voting.
12. Voter proceeds to the table and fills up the ballot using a ballot secrecy folder.
13. After filling up the ballot, the voter folds it in the same way as when he received it.
14. Voter goes back to the BEI table, affixes his/her thumbmark in the ballot coupon in front of all the members of the BEI, and returns the ballot to the Chairman.
15. Chairman, in front of the members of the BEI and the voter, without unfolding the ballot, checks if the serial number of the ballot is the same as the one entered in the EDVCL.
    - If the number is not the same, the ballot shall be considered spoiled. It shall be marked "spoiled," dropped in the compartment for spoiled ballots, and such fact shall be recorded in Part C of the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes.
16. If the serial number matches, the voter affixes his/her thumb mark in the EDCVL. The Chairman applies a drop of indelible ink at the base and extending to the cuticle of the right index fingernail of the voter.
    - If the voter refuses to have his finger inked, he/she will be informed by the Chairman that this will make his ballot spoiled. If the voter still refuses to have his finger inked, the Chairman, without unfolding the ballot and without removing the coupon, will write the word "spoiled" on the ballot, sign at the back of the ballot, and immediately drop it in the compartment for spoiled ballots.
    - This fact shall be recorded in Part C of the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes. The voter will then be asked to leave.
17. Chairman signs in the EDCVL.
18. Chairman detaches the coupon in front of the BEI and the voter.
19. Chairman drops the coupon in the compartment for spoiled ballots and the ballot in the compartment for valid ballots.
20. Voter leaves the polling place.

Sec. 34, GI

Note: Only the Chairman is allowed to give the ballots. Only one ballot shall be given at one time.
Sec. 34, GI



VOTING: THE TWO VOTERS

The following are guidelines on how to handle two unique voters at the polling place.

THE ILLITERATE AND PHYSICALLY-CHALLENGED VOTER

1. You may only let another person (an assistor) fill out the ballot of an illiterate or physically-challenged person vote if this is noted in the PCVL, Voter's Registration Record or Voter's Affidavit or if his/her condition is readily obvious.

2. An illiterate or physically-challenged voter may avail of an assistor to fill out his ballot for him/her. However, the Poll Clerk must first verify with the voter whether he/she had authorized his/her assistor to assist him/her in filling up his/her ballot.

Who can be an assistor?
An assistor can be a –

a. relative of the voter by consanguinity or affinity within the fourth civil degree;
b. person he/she trusts who belongs to his/her same household, in the absence of the relative;
c. member of the BEI.

3. You must then request the assistor to take an oath by affixing his/her signature in Part G of the Minutes of the Voting and Counting of Votes that he/she will –

a. fill the ballot as instructed by the voter.
b. not reveal the contents of the ballot to anyone.

4. You can then let the assistor fill up the ballot in the presence of the voter.

Sec. 31, GI

Note: The BEI can assist as many times as there are illiterate or physically disabled voters who will request for his/her assistance. All other assistors can assist not more than three (3) times.
Sec. 31, GI

THE CHALLENGED VOTER

1. Any voter or watcher may challenge any person who wishes to vote on two (2) grounds:
   a. as illegal voter
   b. against illegal acts

A person may be challenged as illegal voter for –

- not being registered
- using the name of another voter
- suffering from an existing disqualification
- being a double/multiple registrant

Sec. 35, GI

A person may be challenged for illegal acts, that is –

- he/she has received or expects to receive, has paid, offered or promised to contribute money or anything of value as consideration for his/her vote or for the vote of another;
- he/she has made or received a promise to influence the giving or withholding of such vote;
- he/she has made, or is interested directly or indirectly in, a bet which depends upon the result of the election.

Sec. 36, GI

2. Challenges may be resolved through –
   a. against illegal voters:
      - The BEI shall ask the person challenged to present proof of registration, identity or qualification. If the challenged voter cannot produce his/her voter's registration card, you can confirm his/her identity by checking his/her photograph or specimen signature in his/her registration record or in any other valid identification document.
      - A member of the BEI may identify the voter, under oath, and record this in Part E of the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes.

Sec. 35, GI

   b. against illegal acts:
      - The voter will take an oath denying the facts alleged in the challenge.
      - If the voter refuses to take an oath, he/she shall not be allowed to vote.

Sec. 36, GI

3. All challenges, oaths, and decisions of the BEI shall be recorded in Part E of the Minutes of Voting and Counting.

Sec. 37, GI

CLOSING THE POLLS

Here are the things to remember as voting draws to a close.

1. At the stroke of 3:00 PM, the poll clerk must determine if there are voters within the 30-meter radius from the polling place. If there are, the poll clerk shall list down their names and advise them to stay in their respective places as he/she will call them. The BEIs may allow voters who arrived before 3:00 PM but have not yet voted, to vote. Any listed voter who does not appear after having been called three (3) times will no longer be allowed to vote.

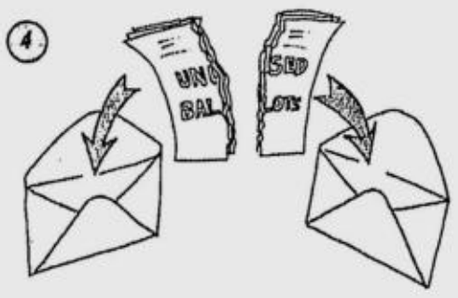
2. The BEIs may not allow voters who arrive after 3:00 PM to vote.

Sec. 22, GI

3. At the close of the polls, the poll clerk shall record the number of unused ballots and their serial numbers in Part A of the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes.

4. The poll clerk must then tear in half, lengthwise, all the unused ballots. Both halves should be placed in separate envelopes. The first half of the torn ballot shall be placed in the Envelope for Other Half Unused Ballots, which shall also be sealed and submitted to the Election Officer for safekeeping. The other half shall be placed in the Envelope for Excess/ Spoiled/Half of Torn Unused Ballots, which shall also be sealed and then deposited in the compartment of the ballot box for spoiled ballots. Such fact shall be recorded in Part C of the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes.

Sec. 38, GI



A HANDBOOK FOR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ELECTION INSPECTORS

COUNTING: PROCEDURE

After the voting is finished, you should count the votes immediately. *Sec. 40, GI*

The voting procedure is described as follows –

PRELIMINARIES TO COUNTING

1. Move your table to the center of the room, or where the best source of light is located.

Procedural Advisory

2. See to it that there is sufficient space behind you where the watchers can stay

Procedural Advisory

3. Open the compartment for valid ballots and take out the valid ballots.

Sec. 43, GI

4. You may only open the compartment for spoiled ballots when you have to get a stray valid ballot mistakenly deposited, after which you must lock the compartment.

Procedural Advisory

5. Without unfolding the ballots, count them to determine if the number of ballots is equal to the number of voters who actually voted.
   - If there are excess ballots, return all the ballots to the compartment for valid ballots and mix them thoroughly. With his/her back turned from the ballot box, the poll clerk will get ballots equivalent to the number of excess ballots. Without unfolding the ballots, the poll clerk shall place them in the Envelope for excess/marked ballots.
   - If the ballots are less than the number of voters who actually voted, check from the EDCVL on who has actually voted and the number of spoiled ballots.
6. If you find a ballot with undetached coupon in the ballot box, detach and deposit the coupon in the compartment for spoiled ballots. Then include the ballot in the pile for valid ballots.
7. If you find a ballot with the word "spoiled" in the compartment for valid ballots, place it in the Envelope for Spoiled Ballots.
8. If there are ballots found folded together before they were deposited in the box, place them in the Envelope for Excess Ballots.
9. Unfold the ballots. Make an examination of the ballots to determine if there are marked ballots. If there are, place these ballots in the Envelope for Marked Ballots.

Sec. 42, GI

Note: Excess, spoiled and marked ballots shall not be read during the counting of votes. The envelopes containing them shall be signed and sealed by the BEI and deposited in the compartment for valid ballots.
Sec. 42, GI.

All ballots deposited in the compartment for spoiled ballots are presumed spoiled, whether or not they contain such notation. If however, during the voting, a valid ballot was erroneously deposited in the spoiled compartment, the BEI shall open the said compartment after the voting and before the counting only to get such erroneously deposited ballot. Said ballot shall then be mixed with the other valid ballots. Such fact shall be recorded in Part C of the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes
Sec. 43, GI.

PROCEDURE

1. Chairman arranges the ballots in piles of one hundred (100) ballots each held together by rubber bands.
2. Chairman starts the counting by reading all votes written on each of the ballot starting with the first pile of ballots.
3. Poll Clerk and Third Member position themselves in such a way as to give the watchers and the public an unimpeded view of the ballot being read by the Chairman, as well as the Election Returns and Tally Board/Sheet.
4. Poll Clerk accomplishes the Election Returns, while the Third Member accomplishes the Tally Board.
5. The Poll Clerk and the third member simultaneosly record the votes by *taras* in the Election Returns and Tally Sheet as they are read by the Chairman.
6. After reading all the votes cast in the first one hundred (100) ballots, the Poll Clerk and the Third Member immediately write after the last *taras* the sub-total of the votes read. If a candidate did not obtain a single vote, the figure "0" shall be written immediately after his/her name.
7. Repeat the procedure for every pile of ballots.
8. After counting all the ballots, Poll Clerk and Third Member sum up all the votes in words and figures both in the Election Returns and in the Tally Sheet.

Sec. 44, GI

9. Chairman, Poll Clerk, and the Third Member sign and affix their thumbprints on the Election Returns and tally sheet in full view of the public.

Sec 46, GI

10. Watchers, if available, shall be requested to sign the Tally Sheet.

Sec. 44, GI

11. After completing the Election Returns, Chairman immediately announces the total number of votes received by each candidate and their corresponding offices, as well as that of the party list organizations.

Sec. 47, GI

12. Place the counted ballots in the Envelope for Counted Ballots, seal, sign and deposit in the compartment for valid ballots.
13. Place the accomplished and certified tally sheet in the compartment for valid ballots as well.
14. Place all copies of the Election Returns in their corresponding envelopes; deliver to their respective addressees. Undelivered or unclaimed envelopes should be delivered to the Election Officer with proper receipt.
15. Place the envelope containing the copy of the Election Returns for the ballot box in the compartment for valid ballots.

Sec. 44, GI

Note: In the face of imminent danger and/or violence, counting of votes can be transferred, by a unanimous vote of the BEI with the concurrence of watchers, to the nearest safe barangay or school building within the same municipality. This shall be recorded in Part C of the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes. In effecting the transfer, the BEI shall ensure the safety and integrity of all election materials.
Sec. 41, GI; Sec. 18, RA 6646

Note: All data required in the Election Return shall be accomplished in handwriting and the entries in the first copy must be properly impressed in the other copies.
Sec. 46, GI

Any change or correction in the Election Returns before the announcement of results of the elections must be initialed by all the members of the BEI. After the announcement has been made, no alterations or amendments are allowed, unless ordered by COMELEC.
Sec. 49, GI

COUNTING: APPRECIATION OF BALLOTS

Determining if a vote is valid can be very tricky. This section aims to help you in ascertaining how and when you may or may not count a vote.

As a rule, every ballot shall be presumed valid unless there is a clear and good reason to justify its rejection.

Frequently Raised Objections:

1. Neighborhood or Proximity Rule – Generally, votes should be written on the space provided for. However, if it is not written on the space provided for but is near and there is no vote written on the space provided for, the vote shall be considered valid for said candidate whose name is written proximate to the space provided for. This is sometimes referred to as the "intent rule."

2. *Idem sonans* – "of the same sound." A name which is misspelled or incorrectly written but which when read has a sound similar to that of a candidate for that office is valid for such candidate.

   Mario Santos — BALLOT: MarioSantus

3. Equity of the Incumbent – If two or more candidates have the same name or surname and one of them is incumbent and on the ballot is written that name or surname only, it shall be counted for the incumbent.

   Mayor Greg Hechanova
   Ben Hechanova — BALLOT: Hechanova

4. A nickname by which a candidate is popularly known in the locality is valid for the candidate having such nickname.

   Gabriel "Gabby" Amihan — BALLOT: Gabby

5. Votes with correct surname followed by the wrong first name or votes with correct first name followed by the wrong surname are considered stray votes.

   Gabriel Amihan
   Gabriel Titulo — BALLOT: PatrickAmihan

6. Predominance of Surnames – If the surname of a candidate is the first name of another candidate for the same office and only that name is written on the ballot, the vote shall be counted in favor of the candidate who has that name as his surname.

   Mayor:
   Benjamin Garcia
   Rogelio Benjamin — BALLOT: Benjamin

   If only the name "Benjamin" appears on the ballot, it shall be counted in favor of Rogelio Benjamin.

Votes are still VALID for counting in the following instances –
- Candidate's first name or surname, as long as there is no other candidate with same name or surname
- Party's name is incomplete or not appearing in the order contained in the Certified List of Parties as long as there is no other such party with the same name
- Surname alone is used
- Candidate with surname that sounds similar when read to the first name of a candidate written in the ballot
- When two candidates have the same full name, first name or surname and one of them is incumbent, the vote shall be counted in favor of the incumbent
- When a candidate is a woman who uses her maiden or married surname or both and there is another candidate with same surname, a ballot bearing only such surname will be counted in favor of the candidate who is an incumbent
- When two surnames are written, only the surname of the incumbent, who has served for at least one year, will be counted
- A name or surname or name of a party incorrectly written which, when read, has a sound similar to the name or surname of a candidate when correctly written
- When a candidate's name appears twice in a ballot, only the vote for the position which he is running for will be counted
- Identical surnames repeatedly appearing on different lines or for multiple positions can be counted when two or more positions are open.Examples as in positions for Senator, Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Sangguniang Panglungsod, and Sangguniang Bayan.
- Name of candidate or party written beside another name that has been erased
- Wrong initial of the first name but correct surname
- Wrong initial of the surname but correct first name
- Wrong middle initial of the candidate
- First name or surname of candidate which is the same with another person who is not a candidate
- Votes with prefixes such as "Sr.," "Mr.," "Datu," "Don," "Ginoo," "Hon.," "Gob.," or suffixes such as "Segundo"
- Nicknames and appellations of affection accompanied by the first name or surname
- Initials of a party as long as they are the same initials appearing in the Certified List of Parties
- Written with crayon, lead pencil, or in ink
- When the number of names exceeds the number required for the positions, names will be counted from those that were written first down to the last allowable slot.
- Commas, dots, lines, or hyphens between the first name and surname of a candidate, or in other parts of the ballot
- Traces or extensions of the letter "I," "J" and other similar letters
- The first letters or syllables of names which the voter does not continue
- Two or more kinds of writing and unintentional or accidental flourishes, strokes, or stains
- Circles, crosses or lines signifying the voter is abstaining from voting for certain positions
- Written in Arabic in localities where it is generally used. To read them, the BEI may employ an interpreter who shall take an oath that he shall read the votes correctly
- Accidental tearing or perforation of a ballot does not annul it
- Intact detachable coupon

Sec. 45, GI

Votes are INVALID in the following cases –
- Combining the first name and surname of two different candidates
- Initials or illegible writing which does not sufficiently identify the candidate
- Vote for a candidate for a position he is not running for
- Vote for a party for a position they are not running for
- Two or more names of candidates or parties in one single space
- Name of person or party not running for office
- Pre-printed stickers or typed entries
- Any ballot which clearly appears to have been filled by two distinct persons
- Vote for a disqualified candidate or party

Sec 45 GI

CONCLUDING ACTIVITIES

A. CERTIFICATE OF VOTES

After announcing the election results in the precinct and before leaving the polling place, you have to issue the Certificate of Votes (C.E. Form No. 13) to PPCRV and/or other duly accredited watchers, upon their request.

The Certificate of Votes shall contain the following –
1. total number of votes obtained by each candidate or party, sectoral organization or coalition participating under the party list system of representation, written in both words and figures;
2. precinct number;
3. name of the barangay;
4. city or municipality and province;
5. total number of voters who voted in the precinct;
6. date and time of issuance; and
7. signature and thumb mark of each member of the BEI.

You must require the watchers to acknowledge receipt of the Certificate of Votes

Note: Your refusal to furnish Certificate of Votes shall constitute an election offense.
Sec. 48, GI; Sec. 27 (c), RA 6646

B. DISTRIBUTION OF COPIES OF ELECTION RETURNS

After the six (6) watchers have signed and affixed their thumbmarks in the copies of the Election Returns, you must distribute copies in the following manner:

Intended Copy for:	To be Given or Delivered to:
City or Municipal Board of Canvassers	Board of Canvassers
Commission on Elections	Election Officer
Provincial Board of Canvassers	Election Officer
Dominant Majority Party as determined by the COMELEC	Representative of the party
Dominant Minority Party as determined by the COMELEC	Representative of the party
Citizens' Arm authorized by the COMELEC	Representative of the citizens' arm
Ballot Box	Depositing in the compartment of the ballot box for valid ballots

Sec 46 and 53, GI

Note: Unclaimed Election Returns intended for dominant majority party, dominant minority party, and citizens' arm shall be turned over to the Election Officer.
Sec. 53, GI

D. DISPOSITION OF BALLOT BOXES AND OTHER PARAPHERNALIA

After the votes have been counted and you have announced the results of the elections in your precinct, you shall –
1. Place the following documents in the compartment for valid ballots:
   - Envelopes containing the Used/Counted Official Ballots; Excess/Marked/ Spoiled/Half of Torn Unused Official Ballots; Copy for the Ballot Box of the Election Returns; Copy for the Ballot Box of the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes
   - Tally Board/Sheet
   - Stubs of unused pads of official ballots
2. Close the inner compartment of the ballot box, lock them with one of the self-locking fixed-length seal and then lock the outer cover with the three (3) padlocks and one of the self-locking fixed-length seal. The keys to the padlocks shall be placed in a separate envelope, sealed, and signed by all the members of the BEI.
3. Deliver to the City or Municipal Treasurer's Office the sealed ballot box.
4. Deliver to the Election Officer the following:
   - Book of Voters; EDCVL; two (2) copies of the PCVL; two (2) copies of the Certified List of Deactivated Voters; 3 envelopes containing 3 keys to a padlock of the ballot box; envelopes containing Copy of the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes (copy for the COMELEC), and Other Half of the Torn Unused Official Ballots; and thumbprint takers and all bottles of indelible ink

Sec 50 GI

Note: If after locking the box, you discover that you left out some documents, do not reopen the box; instead submit the documents to the Election Officer.
Sec. 52, GI

Note: You must see to it that you are escorted by security officers and watchers when you deliver the Election Returns.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Below is a list of common problems you may encounter on election day. However, you must remember that in any difficult situation you will find yourself in, your authority as a member of the BEI prevails over anyone else's at the polling place

1. Q. Am I allowed to accept food and drinks offered by politicians?
A. Do not accept anything as this may compromise your duty to uphold the integrity of the ballot.

2. Q. What am I going to do when my military escort is pressuring me to pack up the election materials so we can get to the Board of Canvassors?
A. You have control over the entire electoral process; therefore, do not allow yourself to be pressured by anyone

3. Q. Am I required to know all the Election Rules or can I rely on the BEI Chairman?
A. Yes. As a member of the BEI, it is your duty to master the election rules.

4. Q. Am I allowed to charge food and transportation expenses?
A. Your per diem already covers all possible expenses

5. Q. How much is my per diem?
A. You are entitled to One Thousand Pesos (P1,000) per day of your services provided your total per diem should not exceed Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000).

6. Q. Should a case be brought against me, who will pay for my legal fees?
A. A special legal fund has been established to assist you; ask your supervisor to help you access this from the Department of Education.

7. Q. How do I deal with arrogant poll watchers?
A. Always maintain your cool and remember that you have the final say at the polling place

8. Q. What do I do in case of a brown-out at the polling place?
A. It is still best to bring emergency light, candles, petromax, etc., even though watchers often bring these with them to the polling place.

9. Q. Who do I call when I have problems at the polling place?
A. Secure the landline and cell phone numbers of your supervisor or principal. Or, you may dial any of the hotline numbers provided at the back of this handbook.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

10. Q. What am I going to do with watchers who do not follow rules but who have been given special privileges by the barangay captain or other local officials?
A. Call their attention right away; you have the final say at the polling place. If the watcher does not acknowledge you, call up the Election Officer.

11. Q. What will I do with copies of the GI or this manual after the elections?
A. Keep your copies for future reference.

12. Q. What will I do in case election supplies run out?
A. You may borrow from an adjacent precinct, or request from your Election Officer. However, if you run out of ballots, you have to request these from the Election Officer.

13. Q. What will I do if the Chairman seems to have made a wrong decision; or made a decision different from that of the Principal/ District Supervisor assigned as Election Monitor/Supervisor or a COMELEC officer?
A. The decision of the BEI is supreme. Therefore, settle all issues among yourselves through a majority vote.

ADDENDUM

On 27 March 2007, through Resolution No. 7843, Sections 12, 40, 41, 44, 46, and 47) of Resolution No. 7815 (General Instructions for the Boards of Election Inspectors on the Casting and Counting of Votes) and Sections 16, 48, and 51 of Resolution 7740 (General Instructions for Special Board of Election Inspectors) were amended to implement Republic Act 9369, which was signed into law on 23 January 2007.

Page 16.
After the voting is finished, you should immediately and publicly count the votes in the polling place. You can not postpone or delay the count until it has been fully completed, unless otherwise ordered by COMELEC.
Sec. 40, Res 7843

Page 16.
PRELIMINARIES TO COUNTING
1. Set up the polling place for counting.
   - Move your table to the center of the room, or where the best source of light is located.

Procedural Advisory
   - You may only do this in the presence of the watchers and within the full view of the public. At all times, the ballot boxes and election paraphernalia and documents shall be within close view of the watchers and public.

Sec. 40, Res. 7843

Page 16.
PROCEDURE
2. Starting with the first pile of ballots, the Chairman starts the counting by reading all the votes written on each of the ballot in the following order: Senator; party list organization; House of Representatives; and local positions.
Sec. 44, Res. 7843

8. After counting all the ballots, the Poll Clerk and Third Member sum up all the votes in words and figures both in the Election Returns and in the Tally Sheet in the following order:
   - Accomplish the certification portion of the Election Returns for the positions of Senator and party-list. The Chairman shall thereafter announce the total number of votes received by each candidate. Afterwhich, the Poll Clerk shall announce the posting of the second copy of the Election Returns on a well-lit wall within the premises of the polling place. He/she will then post the said copy in the presence of the other members of the BEI, the watchers, and the public.
   - Repeat the same procedures for members of the House of Representatives and local positions.

Sec. 46, Res 7843

10. Watchers of the six major parties, if available, shall sign and affix their right thumbmarks in the Election Returns.
Sec. 14 and 46, GI and Sec. 46, Res 7843

11. (Announcement of votes shall be in accordance with step number 8). The second copy of the Election Returns shall be posted for 48 hours. Any person may view or capture an image of them. After 48 hours, the Chairman of the BEI shall collect the posted Elections Returns and keep them in his/her custody for image or data capturing by any voter or for any lawful purpose as may be ordered by competent authority.
Sec 46, Res 7843

Page 17.
Note: In the face of imminent danger and/or violence, counting of votes and preparation of Election Returns and other forms can be transferred to another place within a public building in the same municipality/city provided that it should not be located within a military or police camp, reservation, headquarters, detachment or field office nor within the premises of a prison or detention bureau or any law enforcement or investigation agency. The transfer shall be authorized by the COMELEC and have been recommended in writing by unanimous vote of the BEI and endorsed in writing by the majority of watchers present.
Sec. 41, Res 7843

The transfer shall be recorded in Part C of the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes. In effecting the transfer, the BEI shall ensure the safety and integrity of all election materials
Sec. 41, GI

Page 20.
B. DISTRIBUTION OF COPIES OF ELECTION RETURNS

Intended Copy for:	To be Given or Delivered to:
First copy: City or Municipal Board of Canvassers	Board of Canvassers
Second copy: Wall Within the Polling Place	To be posted by the Poll Clerk on a well-lit wall within the polling place and to be collected and kept by the Chairman after 48 hours
Third Copy: Commission on Elections	Election Officer
Fourth Copy: Dominant Majority Party as determined by the COMELEC	Representative of the party
Fifth Copy: Dominant Minority Party as determined by the COMELEC	Representative of the party
Sixth Copy: Citizens' Arm authorized by the COMELEC to conduct an unofficial count	Representative of the Citizens' Arm authorized to conduct an unoffical count
Seventh Copy: Ballot Box	To be deposited in the compartment of the ballot box for valid ballots

Sec. 46, Res 7843

HOTLINE NUMBERS

COMELEC
Tel. No. (02) 525-9295, 525-9296, 525-9302, 525-9334
Trunk line (02) 527-6111 local 2001 and 2002

DepEd Election Task Force
National Hotlines: (02) 633-7205, 638-8636, 633-7223, 635-0522, 632-1372, 633-6680, 633-7253, 636-4880, 636-1663
Fax No.: (02) 633-7236, 633-7258, 636-6550, 631-8494
Cell Phones: (0917) 969-6102, (0916) 905-8719, (0906) 375-3020
Trunklines: (02) 632-1361 to 71 local DepEd Election Task Force
E-mail: fcsunga@deped.gov.ph

PPCRV National Office
Tel. No. (02) 521-5005, 524-2855
Fax No. (02) 528-0149
Email: parishpcrv@yahoo.com

POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

TM

Pinalakas na Touch Mobile

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Teaching ABCs the alibata way

RAYMOND Cosare shows samples of letters written in "baybayin," the ancient Filipino writing system.

By Tina G. Santos

RAYMOND COSARE INITIALLY COULDN'T explain his fascination with the Chinese brush.

"I was just fond of collecting it but I didn't know why," he told the INQUIRER.

A psychology professor at the Far Eastern University, the 38-year-old Cosare discovered the answer about seven years ago shortly after he began working as a volunteer at Bahay Nakpil-Bautista, an old house in Quiapo, Manila that has been turned into a museum for artifacts belonging to its previous owners and members of the Katipunan.

Since 2000, Cosare has been putting his brush collection to good use by teaching children, as well as the young at heart, the art of writing the *baybayin*, the ancient Filipino script.

He explained that *baybayin* is an old Tagalog word that refers to all the letters or alphabet used in writing a language. It is taken from the root word, *baybáy*, meaning "to spell."

Syllabic writing system

The *baybayin* is a syllabic writing system, which means that each letter represents a syllable instead of just a basic sound compared to the modern alphabet. There are a total of 17 characters: three vowels and 14 consonants, but when combined with the small vowel-modifying marks called *kudlít*, the number of characters increases to 45, Cosare added.

"Though it is more commonly known as *alibata*, it is proper to use *baybayin*," he stressed.

He explained that *alibata* was the term introduced in the early 1900s by Paul Versoza of the University of Manila. He said Versoza claimed that the term was coined from *alif*, *ba* and *ta*, the first three letters of the Maguindanao arrangement of the Arabic letters.

These days, while his students are on their summer break, Cosare is busy holding "*baybayin* classes" for curious guests who drop by Bahay Nakpil-Bautista.

His students include children and their mothers as well as local and foreign tourists, he said.

Each class, which lasts about an hour and a half, begins with Cosare talking about the history of *baybayin*.

"It's very informal because I don't want them to get bored, especially if it's the kids I'm talking to," he added.

But the real magic begins as soon as Cosare's eager students sit on the wooden floor of the ancient house to write their names in *baybayin* using a brush, paper, ink or paint.

"They write awkwardly at first but little by little, they develop confidence until their handwriting flows, and the curls they draw become so natural it's as if they've known how to do this before," he said of his students.

According to Cosare, he first encountered *baybayin* when he was in second year high school.

"Our Filipino teacher wrote the *baybayin* characters on the blackboard but she did not explain it, she just told us to copy what she was writing on the board," he said. He added that he quickly became interested in learning how to write the characters, even using these to write letters and journals.

"I mastered *baybayin* because I used it to hide my deepest thoughts in my journal—my way of protecting it from my nosy siblings," he said with a laugh. "At least, they wouldn't understand what these characters stood for."

But with no one to share his newfound interest with, Cosare put aside *baybayin* when he got to college.

Then one day, Teresita Obusan, the ebullient curator of Bahay Nakpil-Bautista, showed him material that featured seemingly intimidating characters.

"She asked me to practice writing it and use those characters in writing 'Merry Christmas' on cards she was about to send her friends. She was surprised because I finished faster than she thought I would. That's when I told her that I've been writing *baybayin* since high school," Cosare recalled.

Since then, Cosare said he and Obusan have found something new to share with guests of Bahay Nakpil-Bautista, apart from giving them a tour of the house and of Quiapo.

Asked why it was significant to study something that many people has long regarded as "useless" and passe, he answered: "*Baybayin* is something Filipinos can really call their own. So, why don't we use it?"

Making Filipinos prouder

"But more importantly, *baybayin* makes Filipino people prouder of who they are," he added.

Contrary to common belief, when the Spaniards arrived in the country, they found a culture that was very different from their own, he said.

"The ability to read and write is the mark of any civilization and according to many early Spanish accounts, our ancestors had already been writing with the *baybayin* for at least a century. This script was just beginning to spread throughout the islands at that time," Cosare added.

But *baybayin* soon went out of style. "Perhaps practicality was the main reason," was his answer when asked why, adding that social expediency could be another.

He further explained: "Maybe Filipinos abandoned *baybayin* in favor of the alphabet because they found the latter easy to learn and it was a skill that helped them to get ahead in life under the Spanish regime, working in relatively prestigious jobs as clerks, scribes and secretaries."

But Cosare happily noted that because of information revolution, many Filipinos are taking a new interest in their heritage and it is usually the *baybayin* that catches their attention first.

"Through the use of computer fonts, the baybayin is now being used in graphic designs for websites, multimedia art, jewelry, compact discs, T-shirts, and logos," he disclosed.

And for some Pinoys, it seems that *baybayin* has come full circle, he added. "Today, a growing number of young Filipinos are getting tattooed with *baybayin* characters to show their pride in their heritage."

However, he claimed that he was referring to Filipinos staying in other parts of the country.

"*Malakas ang* interest (There is a lot of interest). But for some, either they're not aware or they find it very Filipino. I don't know what that means but somehow too Filipino is not a very positive thing for others."

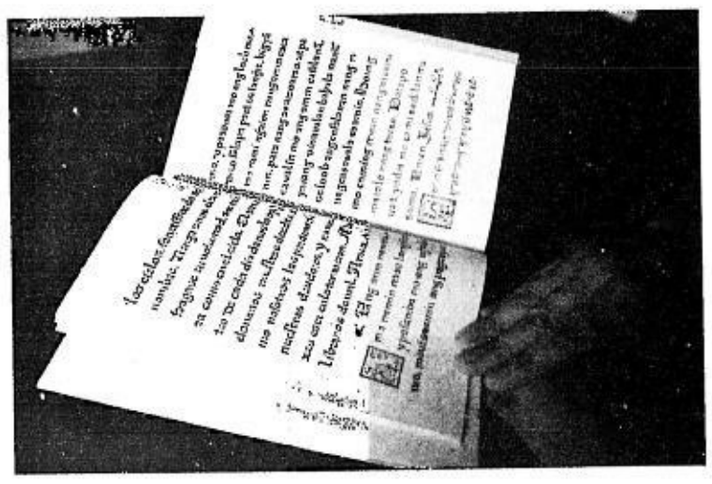
"Check the Internet and you will see that most websites about *baybayin* were done by Filipino-Americans, Filipino-Canadians, *walang purong* Pinoy," Cosare lamented.

According to him, he would be happy if *baybayin* is introduced in school curriculums.

"The suggestion has always been there but maybe the Department of Education has other concerns for now," he said, adding that it would be better to introduce *baybayin* to preschool children.

Ultimately, Cosare added, his goal is to be able to produce a book about *baybayin*.

"That's my next target. To reach out to more people, something that hopefully would give them a little pride, something that would work wonders for the Filipino people's sense of who they are," he added.



COSARE shows a book written in "baybayin." He holds classes for those who want to learn the ancient Filipino script at the Bahay Nakpil-Bautista in Quiapo, Manila.
PHOTOS BY REM ZAMORA

SLEX cuts toll from Alabang to Calamba

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE TOLL REGULATORY BOARD HAS CUT by 10 percent the toll rate being charged for motorists using the Alabang to Calamba segment of the South Luzon Expressway.

The reduction took effect at 12:01 a.m. yesterday.

The TRB said in a statement that the discount was recommended by its chair, Transport Secretary Leandro R. Mendoza, and approved by the Office of the President.

It added that the move is expected to provide relief to motorists who might be inconvenienced by the ongoing rehabilitation of the expressway.

The lower toll rate is expected to be in effect for the duration of the SLEX improvement project, which the South Luzon Tollway Corp. aims to finish in the last quarter of 2008.

Last January, Malacañang also ordered toll rates at the North Luzon Expressway reduced by about 10 percent. The rate for class 1 vehicles dropped to P37.50 from P42.40; for class 2 vehicles, P93.76 from P106.01 and for class 3 vehicles, P112.51 from P127.22.

METROBRIEFS

'Tainted with politics'

MUNTINLUPA Vice Mayor Aldrin San Pedro, who is running for mayor, yesterday accused the incumbent mayor of being behind the filing of graft charges against him. According to San Pedro, the graft case "was clearly tainted with politics since it was filed just days before May 14." He is running against Loretta Fresnedi, wife of Mayor Jaime Fresnedi. "This is a dirty ploy by the mayor to shore up his wife's dismal campaign and to mislead the voters," he told the INQUIRER. San Pedro was reacting to news reports that a former employee of his office, Rowena Ann Lopez, has filed graft charges against him at the Office of the Ombudsman. Based on her complaint, Lopez claimed that San Pedro had falsified public documents by approving the program and obligation request for an employees' seminar, which allegedly never took place. The vice mayor denied Lopez's allegations, saying the expenses for the seminar have already been liquidated. "If they really wanted to file the case, they should have filed it a long time ago," San Pedro said. He added that he has yet to receive a copy of the charges filed at the Ombudsman. "It is very unfortunate that Lopez allowed herself to be used by the mayor for political reasons," he said.

Julie M. Aurelio

Chef's killers sought

Police are looking for two men suspected of killing a culinary arts instructor inside his apartment in Quezon City last week. PO2 Pascual Fabreag yesterday said witnesses have provided them with descriptions of the suspects who were seen knocking on the door of Enrico "Ricky" San Pedro's house on Esteban Abada Street, Loyola Heights on May 8. San Pedro, 45, a chef-instructor of the Center for Culinary Arts, Manila (CCA, Manila), was later found dead inside his room, with head wounds and strangulation marks around his neck. The owners, management, chefs and staff of CCA, Manila, and Cravings Group of Companies, meanwhile, expressed their sympathies to Ricky's family. Ricky, a graduate and chef-instructor of CCA, Manila, was also the corporate chef for Cravings Restaurant. His remains will be cremated today, Sunday, at the Heritage Cemetery in Taguig after a Mass to be held at 9:30 a.m.

Jeannette I. Andrade

"THE OFWS HAVE BEEN HAILED AS THE 'Bagong Bayani.' But our support to these people should not just stop with coining venerating names. About time we recognized their accomplishments so that they too may serve as inspirations to others."

JOEY Concepcion, RFM Corp., December 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Editor Gerry Lirio

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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

She fights for HK Pinoys' right to vote

STUDENT ACTIVIST-TURNED-OFW ADVOCATE Daphne Ceniza-Kuok: "Now that we have the chance to cast our votes, we should take care of it." PHOTOS BY DANTE PERALTA

Her life story is an alphabet soup of political and non-government organizations since the 1980s, but for the last seven years, her advocacy has spelled only three letters: OAV

By Blanche S. Rivera
Hong Kong Correspondent

HONG KONG—MOST PEOPLE HERE KNOW her name. Daphne Ceniza-Kuok, after all, rings a bell.

But few know that this Filipino's life—a history of fighting for various causes from various angles—rings loud with something bigger than a married name associated with swanky hotels.

Kuok, 47, carries a conviction from her past that remains unchanged.

"Service, once it gets into you, will always be there," Kuok tells the INQUIRER in an interview at the Bayanihan Centre in Kennedy-Town where the overseas absentee voting (OAV) is being held.

Her story is an alphabet soup of political and nongovernment organizations since the 1980s. But for the last seven years, her advocacy has spelled only three letters: OAV.

Kuok, a member of the International Coalition for Overseas Filipino Voting Rights (ICOFVR), has been devoted to encouraging overseas Filipino workers to exercise their political right to vote.

She sits as vice chair of the special board of canvassers in Hong Kong, the post with the second biggest population of registered overseas voters at 96,505.

Hong Kong had the highest voter turnout in 2004, with 64 percent of voters casting their ballots, but the situation has been dismal this year.

The Philippine Consulate and Filipino organizations here are exerting all efforts to encourage migrants to vote, even providing free bus rides to the polling precinct.

Kuok says many OFWs were excited in 2004 because it was the first time they could vote outside the country. Others from the martial law generation who left the Philippines before democracy was restored were enthusiastic about simply voting again.

Apathy

The apathy in this second OAV, however, shows that there is still "no appreciation of the value of voting" among OFWs, says Kuok.

She says most OFWs do not realize that participating in the elections to determine who will make up Congress will directly affect their lives.

CONDUCTING a seminar, Daphne involves the community and gives them a sense of ownership of the activity.

"We have to remind them that they are here because of force of circumstance, of the economic situation back home. If it had been better, there will be no need for them to break away from their families," Kuok says.

"Now they have the chance to have their say, they should take care of it. We got the OAV Law because we pounded on Congress, we developed allies," she says.

In 2001, those behind the Elagda, an online campaign among Filipinos abroad to support the ouster of then President Joseph Estrada decided to take on a new advocacy: overseas voting.

Filipino professionals from all over Europe, the United States, China, Japan, Saudi Arabia, including Kuok who was then in Beijing with her family, formed the ICOFVR, a coalition that survived through e-mail but had enough clout back home to keep key allies in Congress.

Dedication

Although most of them have never met, the trust was such that one member from the United States had even asked his sister in Manila to hand over a check for P175,000 to Ellen Sana, a member of the Center for Migrants Advocacy (CMA), for the payment of an OAV advertisement in the INQUIRER.

"So you see the dedication... That's what I've been telling the consulate here, you have to get the community involved. There must be a sense of ownership of this activity (OAV)," Kuok says.

After two years of lobbying, the ICOFVR finally saw Congress pass the OAV Law in 2003. The first OAV was held in time for the presidential elections in 2004.

"Until now, we have not seen each other, but we still update each other about what's going on," Kuok says of the ICOFVR.

The woman is no stranger to lobbying—fighting to be precise. The Social Science graduate was a student leader in the University of the Philippines during martial law.

She dropped out of UP law school in her third year after the wife of rebel priest Conrado Balweg was arrested by the military coming from her house. The military was hot on her heels then.

'Lone ranger'

Kuok was involved with the League of Filipino Students (LFS), and later, the Justice for Aquino, Justice for All (Jaja) movement, then the Nationalist Alliance for Justice, Freedom and Democracy (NAJFD) with the likes of Chino Roces and Lorenzo Tañada.

She was with the Women for Ouster of Marcos and Boycott (Womb), which did the state-of-the-nation fashion show, when the dictator and his family flew out of the country in the wake of the first people power revolt.

By the time democracy returned in 1987, ideological differences had split the communist movement in the Philippines, and Kuok, who described herself then as "a lone ranger" decided to try and get a job, like all her friends who had by then become lawyers.

Unfortunately for her, a resumé with a rough sketch of her work experience as "media liaison officer during the cease-fire" did not impress employers.

"I had been an activist for years, so I had nothing to show them... Imagine the humiliation of knowing you're intelligent, or being in your Sunday best, and not even getting a chance to be interviewed," she recalls.

That period had been a life-changing journey for Kuok, who instead put up her own boutique and supplies trading business.

"At the end of the day, God will strip you of all your confidence until there's nothing but you and Him," she says.

Migrants' concerns

Kuok was with the Concerned Citizens Against Pollution (Concap) when she got married in 1989. She moved to Beijing in 1994 and became a full-time wife and mother.

When her family transferred to Hong Kong in 2001, Kuok again picked up migrants concerns. She founded the Filipino Community Services and Information Network (Filcomsin) and is also an active member of the CMA in Manila.

Getting involved with the OAV is her way of rallying migrants to address the moral vacuum in the Philippine government, she says.

"Everything that had happened in my life is part of God's molding and equipping for me... Service is just something you have to do, I think," she says.

How long-distance ma keeps close ties with only daughter

By Gian S. Camacho
Contributor

THIS WOULD ONLY BE THE sixth time in over 20 years that globetrotting mom, Maria Galvez, 48, and her only daughter, Aika Sanchez, 21, are celebrating Mothers' Day together. Despite more than two decades of being a mom to Aika, Galvez has spent a greater part of the last 20 years crisscrossing Europe as an OFW in her quest of finding fulfillment and a better life for herself and her daughter.

However, regardless of the fact that she has been away from her only child most of the time for the past two decades, Galvez told the INQUIRER that she has maintained a healthy and gratifying relationship with Aika which has sometimes become the cause of envy for other OFW mothers that she got to meet abroad.

In Italy, where Galvez is currently based, her Filipino friends would often express shock and a hint of jealousy whenever they hear her talking to her daughter during her regular phone calls to the Philippines. "They usually get surprised when they realize how close I am to Aika after listening to our conversations," Galvez said.

Remarkable closeness

Apparently, these conversations reveal the openness and closeness between mother and daughter. "After listening to how I speak with my daughter, my friends in Italy (who have children of their own back home) would sometimes say: *'Bakit kaya hindi ganoon anak ko sa akin?'* or 'Why couldn't I be like that with my own child?'" Galvez added.

This remarkable closeness between Galvez and her daughter, which is not commonly seen in the relationships of OFW parents and their children, is a result of constant communication between the two, Aika's recognition of the sacrifices that her mother make, and the faith that Galvez gives to her daughter's guardians.

Galvez always tries to keep in touch with her daughter. There would be times that she'd call her child daily. They would talk about almost anything—from serious subjects like relationships down to the most mundane topics, she said.

Better person

"Sometimes we just talk about ordinary stuff like what she did in school that day, if she felt happy or sad about her day. There are times when we talk about senseless things like when she was still young, she'd sometimes speak about losing a crayon or something. Simple things like that," Galvez said.

As dull as their topics may be for other people, Galvez and her daughter's closeness and candor with each other turns out to be one good result of these conversations.

CONSTANT communication between Maria Galvez and daughter Aika Sanchez, here at her elementary graduation in 1999

Aika's recognition of Galvez's sacrifices for the well-being of both mother and child also proves to be one of the main reasons behind their healthy relationship. Aika said that through her acknowledgment of what her mother does for her, she becomes more inclined to open up to her and, consequently, it strengthens their relationship.

"Because of my recognition of her sacrifices, I became a better person, stronger. If not because of her, I wouldn't be me and I also wouldn't be able to realize the better side of me," Aika added.

Galvez said that she made it a point to make her daughter realize the value of her sacrifices. "I didn't want my daughter to think that I went abroad just for leisure. I went there to work so that I could give her the things that she needed."

Not being able to do that, Galvez said, often caused problems between OFW parents and their children. "OFW children who are unappreciative of their parents' sacrifices do not tend to realize that although their parents are away, OFWs are still trying to do their roles as parents by working far away just to provide for their needs."

Galvez added that OFW parents get affected if their children do not recognize their sacrifice. "When that happens, parents tend to compensate wrongly. They compensate by trying to give them as much material things as they can and that's how OFW children become spoiled."

Like best friends

Galvez said her relationship with Aika is something a lot more similar to the bond between two close friends.

"I couldn't totally give her the kind of relationship that normal parents and their children have so I tend to approach her as a friend—someone whom she can talk to, share her problems with," she said.

Galvez responds to the challenge of being an absentee mother by taking on various roles like being a friend to her daughter and sometimes, being some sort of an elder sister. Although she admits that she has limitations in taking on some important roles like that of a full-time mom because of her work, Galvez always does her best to play the role that her daughter needs at any given time.

"I can't act as a full-time mother to Aika because I really couldn't especially when I'm away. That's why most of the time I just try to act as a friend to whom she can come anytime. But whenever I see that I need to take on the role of a real mother, like when she needs help in making big decisions, I'm always there," Galvez said.

Given her limitations in taking roles such as being a full-time mother, Galvez is extremely grateful for having a trustworthy family who can watch over her child while she's away.

HOME last March for her daughter Aika's graduation from San Beda College, Maria is the epitome of the proud mom. With them are Uncle Boy, cousin Cyril and Lola Cely.

Extended family

"Because I couldn't be there all the time for Aika, I shared the responsibility of bringing her up with my siblings and other relatives. I shared my role as a mother with my relatives. Aika's Nanay Marita, Ninang Tess, Lola Cely, Ninang Ditas, Tito Jumong, Tatang, Lola Carmen, her uncles, practically everybody had a hand in raising her," Galvez shared.

Galvez added that it was very important to leave your child to trustworthy people and to have complete faith in them. "If you're away, you're never going to know how exactly your child's guardians take care of her so it is imperative that you leave your child in the hands of trustworthy people and have 100-percent faith in them."

Looking at the outcome of her decisions and her current relationship with her child, it is quite obvious that Galvez didn't do so badly with her choices in the past 20 years.

"Although she had her shortcomings as a mother particularly when it came to being with me physically, she never failed in reminding me of making me feel her love and care," Aika added. ***With a report from Chottie Sanchez***

Countries on WB board want Wolfowitz out

WASHINGTON—A MAJORITY OF countries on the World Bank board believe Paul Wolfowitz should resign as President of the World Bank, bank board sources from rich and developing nations said on Friday.

"It is now very clear that a majority of members think Mr. Wolfowitz must resign," said one board source from a developing country, which received instructions from its capital this week not to support Wolfowitz's continued leadership.

"We believe that the World Bank cannot continue under the leadership of Mr. Wolfowitz," the source told Reuters.

The bank's 24-nation board this week delayed a final decision until next week over Wolfowitz's future, which hangs in the balance over a pay and promotion deal he approved for his companion, Shaha Riza, a World Bank Middle East expert.

The high-paying promotion sparked calls by the bank's employee association for Wolfowitz to resign and has paralyzed the institution, the globe's largest poverty-fighting agency.

Wolfowitz has said he took the advice of the board's ethics committee on Riza and that the row is part of a smear campaign designed to undermine his leadership.

Asked how many member countries thought Wolfowitz should resign, the source told Reuters: "More than 50 percent."

But another board official from a developed country cautioned that Wolfowitz's departure was not yet a foregone conclusion and he should be given time to respond properly to findings by a panel that his actions in the Riza's promotion broke bank rules.

He is expected to present his response to the panel by the end of the day today.

It was unclear whether the meeting of the board will decide Wolfowitz's future by consensus or whether it may be forced into a vote, which would be an unusual move.

There is concern among some board officials that a vote could further divide the bank by pitting allies of the United States against Europe and its supporters.

The official said among the issues being weighed by member countries was whether Wolfowitz's continued leadership of the World Bank would damage its ability to raise funds for anti-poverty projects, hurt the morale of the staff and further damage the bank's reputation.

The row over Wolfowitz has stirred lingering unhappiness, mainly among European countries, about his nomination to the job in 2005 because of his role as architect of the Iraq war.

Despite the private disquiet among Europeans at the time, Wolfowitz's appointment to the bank was confirmed without dissent on March 31, 2005. He has remained a controversial figure, locking horns with the bank's membership on such issues as his good governance and anticorruption campaign.

Board sources said Canada and Japan would support the United States in its backing for Wolfowitz together with countries in Africa, where Wolfowitz has focused much of his attention.

The sources said Europe's push for Wolfowitz to resign was supported by Brazil, South Korea, India, Russia, Argentina, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. *Reuters*

HELLO IT'S ME
Part of the submerged statue 'Captain's Return' appears to be waving from the floodwaters of the Mississippi River as it stands along the riverfront in St. Louis on May 11. Floodwaters from the Missouri River are flowing into the Mississippi, causing it to rise. AP

Panel 'exonerates' bobbies in London subway shooting

LONDON—A POLICE OVERSIGHT body ruled Friday that 11 officers involved in the fatal shooting of a 27-year-old Brazilian electrician, whom the police had said they mistook for a terrorist, would not face disciplinary hearings.

Jean Charles de Menezes died at a subway station in Stockwell, south London, when officers shot him seven times in the head on July 22, 2005—one day after an alleged failed terror attack on the London transit system. The city was in a state of high tension after an attack on July 7, when 52 people died in four suicide bomb attacks. The police gave the impression that de Menezes had behaved suspiciously, but later revised their account.

In a statement, the Independent Police Complaints Commission said that 11 "frontline firearms and surveillance officers involved in the shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes at Stockwell Underground Station on July 22, 2005 will not face a disciplinary tribunal."

Patricia da Silva Armani, de Menezes' cousin, said the ruling was "disgraceful."

"They are letting the police get away with murder," she said in a statement. "First, officials killed my cousin, then they lied about it and now the officers are walking away without any punishment. It is a travesty of justice and another slap in the face for our family."

The Independent Police Complaints Commission is a government body set up in 2004 to investigate police behavior. Public prosecutors had already concluded in July 2006 that no criminal proceedings would be brought against the officers.

The commission said it would postpone ruling on the behavior of four senior officers who gave the order to close in on de Menezes until after a trial, scheduled for October, at which the office of London's Metropolitan Police commissioner will face charges under health and safety laws.

The Justice4Jean Campaign, an organization of the dead man's family and friends, said the ruling "effectively says police officers can act above the law, free to take human life without facing a full legal investigation like anyone else." *New York Times News Serivce*

WorldBriefs

G8 set for transatlantic clash on climate

LONDON—The United States is trying to dilute a declaration on global warming to be made at next month's G8 summit, sources close to the talks said on Friday, putting it on a collision course with hosts Germany. In a draft of the declaration dated April 2007 seen by Reuters, the United States objects to a pledge to limit global warming to two degrees Celsius this century and cut world greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. Washington also questions whether the United Nations is the best forum to tackle the climate crisis and rejects a section stating that carbon markets are a key means of developing and deploying climate-friendly technologies. "They have rejected any mention of targets and timetables, don't want the UN to get more involved and refuse to endorse carbon trading because it must by definition involve targets," one well-placed source said on condition of anonymity. The leaders of Britain, the United States, Russia, Canada, Japan, Italy and France will attend the summit hosted by Germany in the Baltic resort town of Heligendamm from June 6 to 8. *Reuters*

Two Koreas agree on railway test runs

SEOUL—North and South Korea Friday reached a military agreement clearing the way for the first rail crossings of their heavily fortified border in half a century. At their first top-level military talks for a year, the two sides also agreed in principle to work to create a joint fishing area in the Yellow Sea, the scene of bloody naval clashes in recent years. The delegations led by two-star generals reached a provisional agreement on security guarantees for railway test runs next Thursday, said a joint statement released by South Korea's defense ministry. "The two sides share the view that preventing military conflict and creating a joint fishing zone in the West (Yellow) Sea is an issue to be urgently resolved in the course of easing military tension and establishing peace," it added. The railway lines have been cut since the 1950-53 Korean War. Their reopening is seen as a highly symbolic move towards reconciliation between two nations still technically at war. *AFP*

Taliban fighters free Frenchman

KABUL—Taliban militants were still holding three Afghans working for a French children's project Saturday, a day after freeing a second French aid worker captured with them five weeks ago. The Taliban's council of leaders would decide on their fate "later," a spokesperson for the militant movement told AFP Friday after announcing that Eric Damfreville had been freed. The Terre d'Enfance (A World For Our Children) aid worker was released in the southern province of Kandahar, the birthplace of the extremist Taliban, and handed to the Red Cross, which passed him on to French authorities at Kandahar airport. Damfreville was in poor physical health after being chained up and gagged for most of his 38-day ordeal, the head of Terre d'Enfance, Antoine Vuillaume, said in Paris. *AFP*

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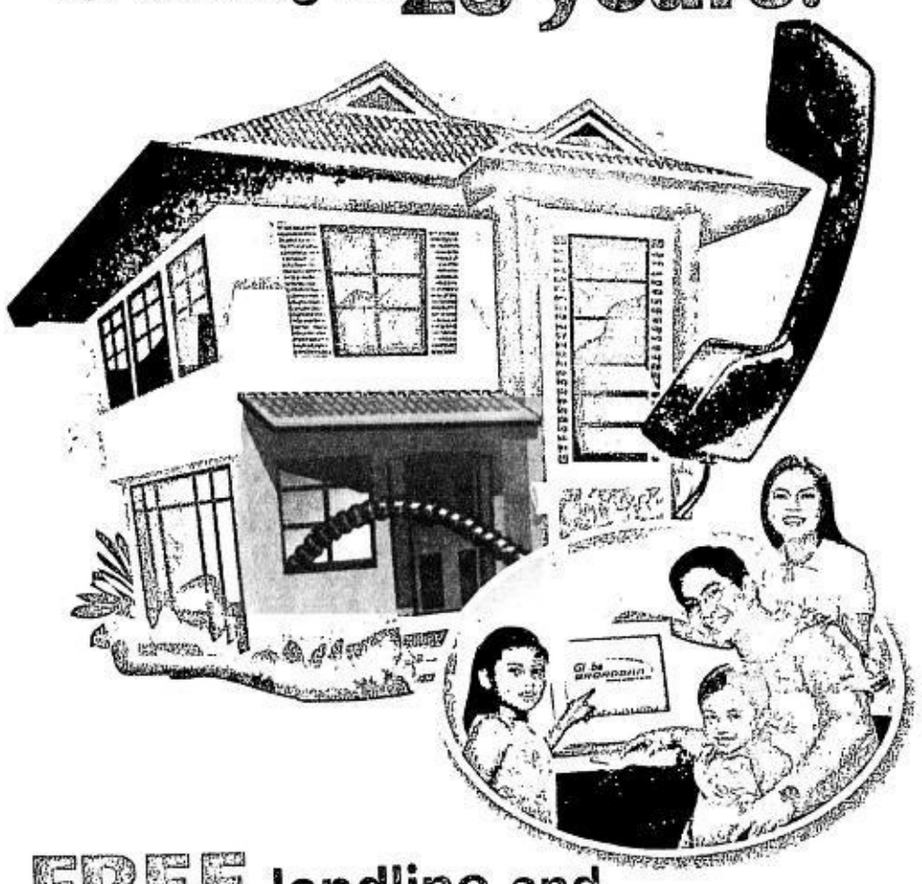
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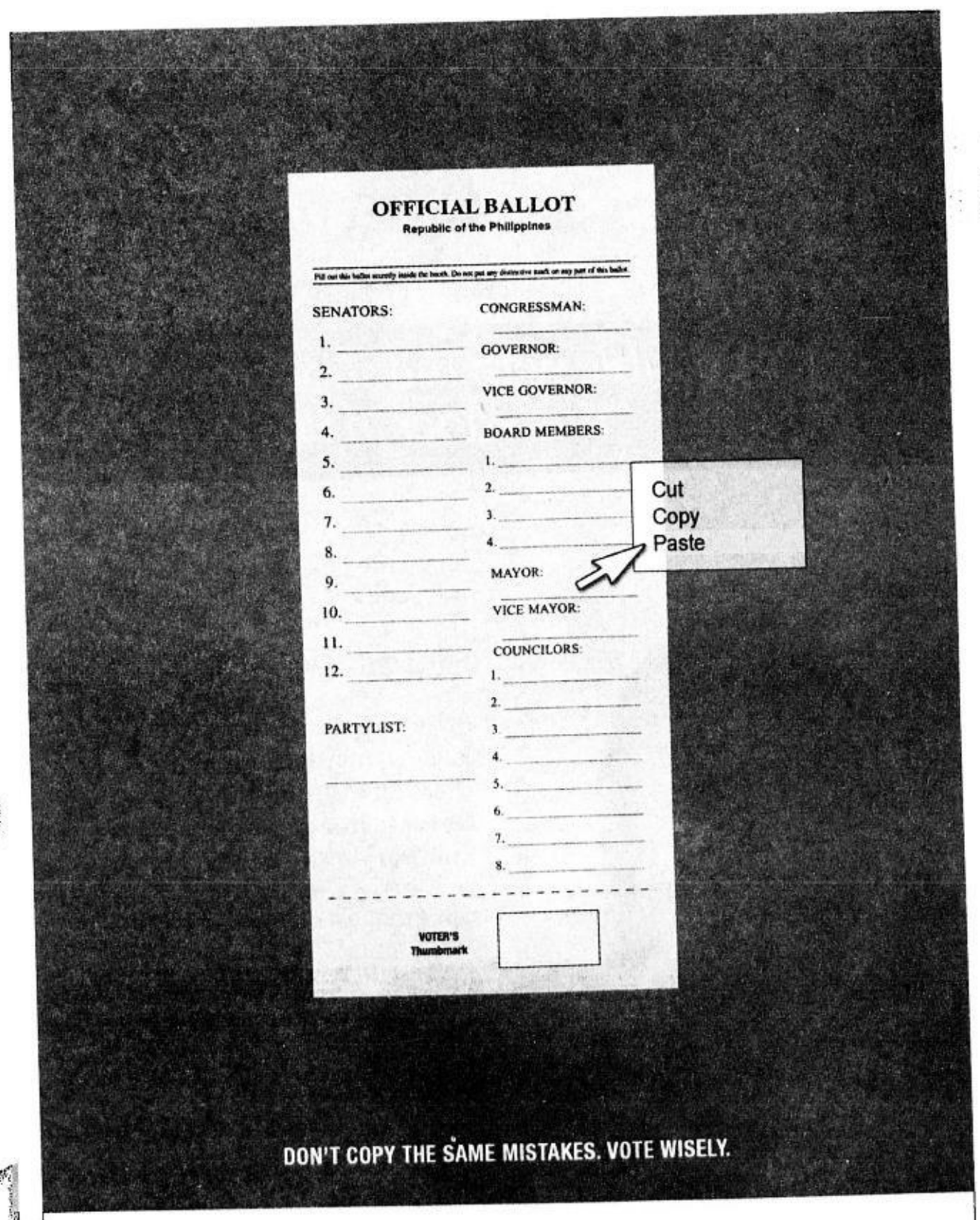

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Billions worth of oil missing in Iraq

BETWEEN 100,000 AND 300,000 BARRELS A day of Iraq's declared oil production over the past four years is unaccounted for and could have been siphoned off through corruption or smuggling, according to a draft American government report.

Using an average of $50 a barrel, the report said the discrepancy was valued at $5 million to $15 million daily.

The report does not give a final conclusion on what happened to the missing fraction of the roughly two million barrels pumped by Iraq each day, but the findings are sure to reinforce long-standing suspicions that smugglers, insurgents and corrupt officials control significant parts of the country's oil industry.

The report also covered alternative explanations for the billions of dollars worth of discrepancies, including the possibility that Iraq has been consistently overstating its oil production.

Iraq and the State Department, which reports the numbers, have been under relentless pressure to show tangible progress in Iraq by raising production levels, which have languished well below the US goal of three million barrels a day. Virtually the entire economy of Iraq is dependent on oil revenues.

The draft report, expected to be released within the next week, was prepared by the US Government Accountability Office with the help of government energy analysts, and was provided to The New York Times by a separate government office that received a review copy. The accountability office declined to provide a copy or to discuss the draft.

Paul Anderson, a spokesperson for the office, said only that "we don't discuss draft reports."

But a State Department official who works on energy issues said that there were several possible explanations for the discrepancy, including the loss of oil through sabotage of pipelines and inaccurate reporting of production in southern Iraq, where engineers may not properly account for water that is pumped along with oil in the fields there.

"It could also be theft," the official said, with suspicion falling primarily on Shiite militias in the south. "Crude oil is not as lucrative in the region as refined products, but we're not ruling that out either."

Iraqi and American officials have previously said that smuggling of refined products like gasoline and kerosene is probably costing Iraq billions of dollars a year in lost revenues. The smuggling of those products is particularly feared because officials believe that a large fraction of the proceeds go to insurgent groups. Crude oil is much more difficult to smuggle because it must be shipped to refineries and turned into the more valuable refined products before it can be sold on the market. *NYT*

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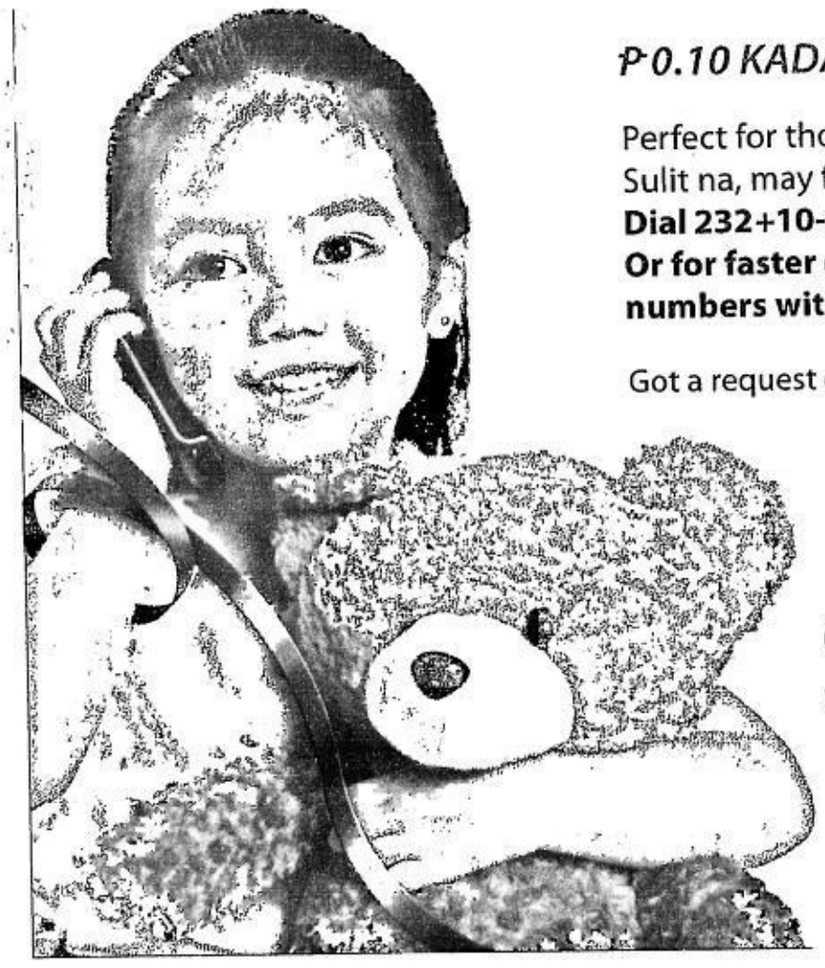

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A FAITHFUL prays during the canonization Mass for Brazilian Franciscan monk Antonio Galvao by Pope Benedict XVI in Sao Paulo on May 11. AP

Pope tells Brazil bishops: Church in difficult time

SAO PAULO—POPE BENEDICT SAID ON FRIday the Roman Catholic Church was facing a "difficult time" and that priests must work harder to stop people abandoning it across Latin America.

He also told Brazilian bishops gathered in Sao Paulo's main cathedral that they must focus on helping the poor. He criticized Brazil as a country blighted by poverty in which many politicians and rich people cared only for themselves.

The tough talk was delivered on the third day of his visit to the world's most populous Catholic nation, aimed at reversing the waning influence of the Church in Latin America.

After leading a festive Mass to canonize Brazil's first saint, Pope Benedict railed against slack morals, rampant sexual activity and abortion.

He also turned his attention to another prime concern—the exodus of millions of people from the Catholic Church.

"Certainly the present is a difficult time for the Church," he told about 250 bishops seated in pews between the Cathedral da Se's magnificent arches.

He complained that Protestant groups were aggressively courting new members and many people were turning away from religion altogether. "No effort should be spared in seeking out those Catholics who have fallen away."

The millions of poor people living on the edges of cities or the countryside need to feel the Church provides for their needs and defends their rights, he said.

To applause from the bishops, he bemoaned the ills in Brazilian society such as huge income inequalities and he implicitly condemned corruption.

"There is a need to form a genuine spirit of truthfulness and honesty among the political and commercial classes," the 80-year-old Pontiff said.

Brazilian politics have long been riddled with corruption.

The first term of President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who himself rose from a humble background and is popular with the working class, was marred by a string of scandals.

The Pope's forthright words were likely to be welcomed by priests working in Brazil's notorious slums, or favelas, who had previously seen him as a conservative figure more concerned with enforcing a hardline Church doctrine.

He is known in Latin America as the man who led the Vatican's crackdown on the Liberation Theology movement of leftist priests in the 1980s.

"It was a speech of support, a message of courage, with clear points for the bishops," said theology professor Fernando Altemeyer of Brazil's Pontificia Catholic University.

Earlier on Friday, Pope Benedict said a Mass for hundreds of thousands of flag-waving faithful at a military airfield to canonize Friar Antonio Galvao, a Franciscan who lived in the 18th century and founded an order of nuns. *Reuters*

WHAT'S INSIDE

Warriors trim Jazz lead /A31

Sunday SPORTS

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STA. LUCIA import Jamaal Williams barges into Richard Yee of Purefoods in Friday night's game. Williams drew a foul. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Ildefonso keys SMB victory over Red Bull

CEBU—DISPLAYING MVP FORM, DANNY Ildefonso scored 11 of his 20 points in the fourth period and led San Miguel Beer to a 98-93 decision of Red Bull last night in a PBA Fiesta Cup elimination game at the oven-hot Cebu Coliseum here.

The 6-foot-5 former two-time MVP was at his best when he was needed most by the Beermen, who clinched their fifth straight win for a 6-7 card while pulling the defending champion Bulls out of a second-place tie.

Red Bull, which led by as many as 12 in the first period, dropped to 9-5 and is now in solo fourth place, its chances of making the semifinals outright suffering a huge dent.

The Beermen ended the half with an 11-0 run that made it a 48-all contest entering the third.

From there, the Beermen showed the poise of champions and Ildefonso the stuff that made him one of the most dominant players early in the decade.

Galen Young added 15 points like Dorian Peña while Olsen Racela chipped in 12. Peña and Young scored 23 points between them in the second period compared to the entire Red Bull team's 20-point output.

James Penny led the Bulls with 30, with Celino Cruz and Larry Fonacier accounting for 11 each and Cyrus Baguio and Leo Najorda chipping in 10 apiece.

Meanwhile, Alaska and Barangay Ginebra slug it out with separate foes today as the battle for the two automatic semifinal slots heats up.

The Aces, after laying claim as the Gin Kings' masters with a repeat 97-91 win at the Ynares Center in Antipolo Friday night, take the floor first against the Coca-Cola Tigers at 4:05 p.m.

And then the Kings, still smarting from their first loss in seven games, get their chance to get back on track when they clash with the Purefoods Giants at 6:35 p.m. *Musong R. Castillo*

STANDINGS	W	L
Ginebra	10	3
Red Bull	9	4
Air21	9	4
Alaska	9	4
Talk 'N Text	7	6
SM Beer	5	7
Coca-Cola	5	8
Sta. Lucia	5	9
Purefoods	4	10
Welcoat	3	10

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:05 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Alaska
6:35 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs Purefoods

The scores:

SAN MIGUEL BEER 98—Ildefonso 20, Young 15, Peña 15, Racela 12, Adriano 8, Wilson 8, Gonzales 5, Calaguio 4, Cablay 2, Adducul 2, Espinas 0.

RED BULL 93—Penny 30, Cruz 11, Fonacier 11, Bagulo 10, Najorda 10, Alvarez 7, Villanueva 6, Sharma 6, Bugia 2, Ibañez 0, Membrere 0, Hrabak 0.

Quarters: 17-28; 48-48; 75-77; 98-93

Import-less RP five braces for tough Asia Champs Cup

TEHRAN, IRAN—THE PARTICIpants may be fewer than expected, but the competition level remains basically the same.

This was the assessment made by San Miguel-RP Team coach Chot Reyes after a quick scan of the opposition in the 18th Fiba Asia Champions Cup that starts Saturday at the Azadi Sports Complex here.

"It's still a tough field," Reyes said during Friday night's reception party of the tournament that was reduced to just eight entries instead of the full complement of 10.

For still unexplained reasons, tough squads Kuwait and Jordan failed to arrive, forcing a slight alteration in the tournament format.

Perennial contender Lebanon, represented by the Blue Stars squad, is in the fold along with former titlist Al-Rayyan of Qatar.

Although the Astana Tigers of Kazakhstan have no import like the Philippines and India, Reyes believes it is foremost among the teams to watch out for.

"It's their national team and their coaches are their former stars," said Reyes, who has coached against the towering Kazakhs in the 2005 and 2006 Jones Cup.

Even Saba Battery Club of host Iran, which the Philippines takes on first Sunday, could be a darkhorse mostly because of its imports, Nndabuem Muoneke and Joseph Fitzgerald Garth.

Muoneke is a former Purefoods import in the PBA but it is Garth, a beefy 6-foot-10 who impresses Reyes more.

"*Pati mukha may* (Even his face has) muscle," said Reyes.

Among the more prominent faces here is Julious Nwosu, one of Al Jalaa of Syria's imports.

The 6-foot-9 Nwosu was part of the Harbour Centre-Philippines team that topped the tournament's Southeast Asian qualifier in Jakarta last month, paving the way for the Nationals' stint here.

It is the first tournament for the all-pro RP five which is hoping to return to the Olympics next year in Beijing by at least finishing second to China in the Asian qualifying in Japan in July.

The withdrawals of Kuwait and Jordan left Lebanon, Qatar and India in Group A with Syria, Iran, Kazakhstan, Bahrain and the Philippines bunched in Group B.

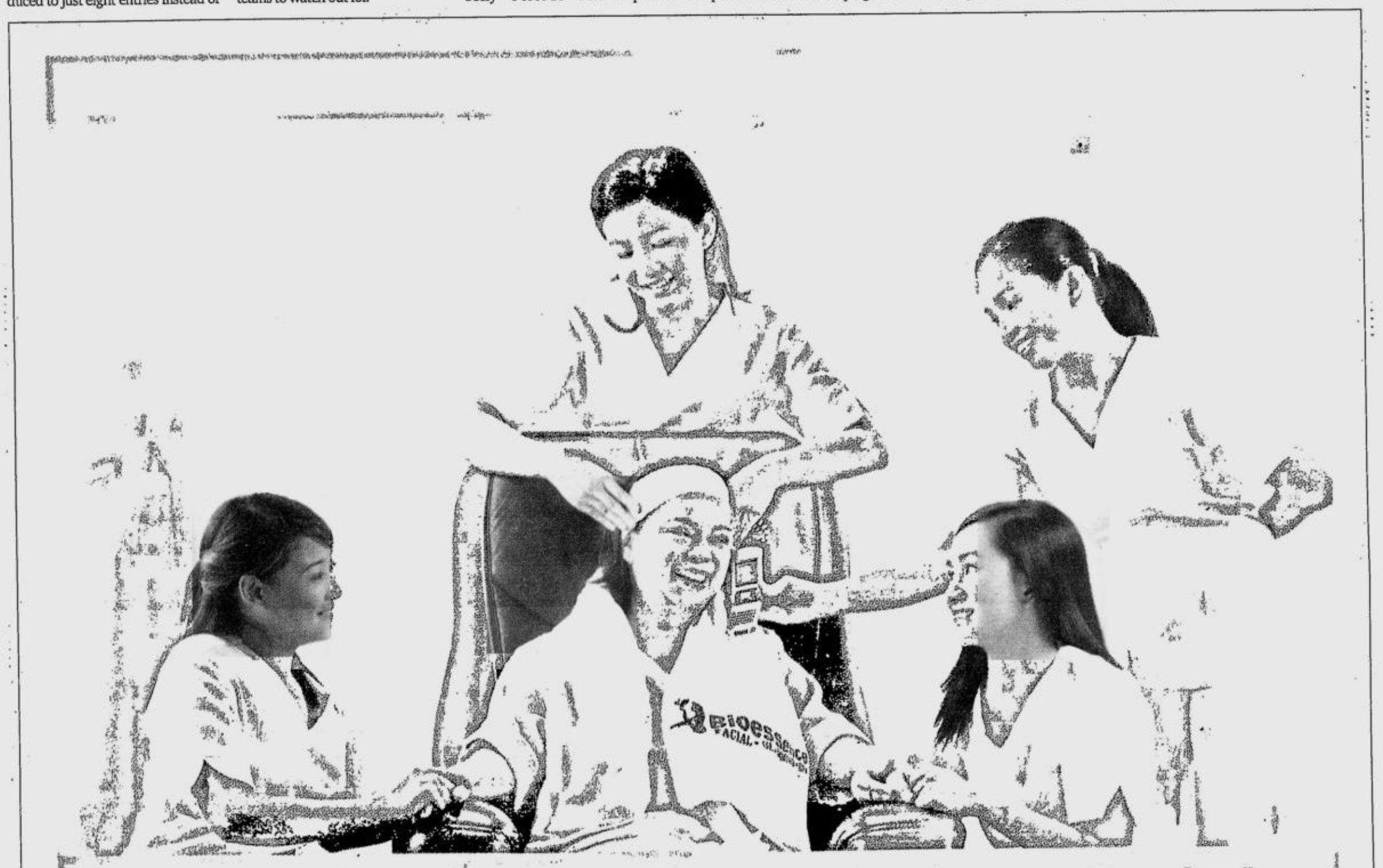
The teams in each group play a single round robin, but those in Group A are already seeded in the quarterfinals.

Group B is drastically different with the top team advancing outright to the semifinals on Saturday and the next three to Friday's one-day quarterfinals.

Opening-day games pit Iran against Bahrain, Lebanon against Qatar and Kazakhstan versus India.

The Filipinos spent most of Friday recovering from the tiring eight-hour flight to Dubai from Manila.

After a three-hour stop in Dubai, the entourage took a two-hour flight to this Islamic republic and an hour-long bus ride to this bustling capital.



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Cebuana whips Magnolia by 40

INQUIRER PHOTO / AUGUST DELA CRUZ

TOYOTA Balintawak's Chris Rodriguez (front) collars the loose ball off Harbour's JC Intal as Marvin Cruz comes to Rodriguez's aid.

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CEBUANA LHUILLIER-PERA PADALA WAS unstoppable against San Miguel-Magnolia team that played awful.

The result was a 103-63 massacre that gave the Moneymen their sixth win yesterday and boosted their stock for the next round of the PBL Unity Cup at the Arena in San Juan.

Five CL Pera Padala mainstays scored in double figures as they exploited San Miguel-Magnolia's spotty defense and lifted the Moneymen close behind idle league-leader Harbour Centre at 6-2.

Cebuana's winning margin was the biggest since Red Bull pulverized Montana Pawnshop, 89-44, eight years ago.

Dazz 'Sang Patak finally ended its six-game losing streak by tripping Burger King, 81-69, in the second game.

Ardy Larong topscored for Dazz with 22 points, 13 of them in the third quarter, as the Kitchen Specialists tied San Miguel-Magnolia at 2-6.

Burger King absorbed its fourth straight setback for a 4-4 record.

"We can't take all the credit for this because there are players from Magnolia who didn't play, but we will take this win anytime," said CL coach Luigi Trillo.

Veteran Erwin Sta. Maria shook off his scoring drought, scattering 19 points, including two three-pointers, to lead CL Pera Padala.

He also came up with three rebounds, two assists and a steal in just 18 minutes of action.

GAMES TUESDAY
(*The Arena, San Juan*)
2 p.m.—CL Pera Padala vs Henkel-Sista
4 p.m.—Dazz Sang Patak vs Harbour Centre

The Whoppers missed burly slotman JR Quinahan, who was suspended for hitting Harbour Centre's Beau Belga during their game early this week.

In posting one of the PBL's widest winning margins in a long time, the Moneymen shot an impressive 58 percent from the field, making 40 of 69 attempts. The Beverage Masters hit only 25 of 75 attempts for a 33-percent clip.

CL-Pera Padala outrebound San Miguel-Magnolia, 51-32, and issued more assists, 29-15.

The scores:

First Game

CL PERA PADALA 103—Sta. Maria 19, Capus 13, Escalona 13, Bono 13, Grijaldo 11, Dela Cuesta 9, Kramer 8, Burtscher 6, Yee 5, Solis 4, Dela Pena 2, Gonzales 0, Oreta 0, Co 0.

SMC-MAGNOLIA 63—Chan 15, Villanueva 12, Custodio 10, Almeda 8, Raneses 6, Evangelista 4, Orongon 2, Barcellano 2, Natividad 2, Bombeo 2, Benitez 0, Jones 0, Angeles 0, Doruelo 0.

Quarters: 22-18, 51-32, 77-53, 103-63

Second Game

DAZZ 81—Larong 22, Juntilla 9, Bucao 6, Moreno 6, Hugnatan 6, Mercado 6, Cenita 6, Sanz 5, Rodriguez 4, Butel 4, Raymundo 3, Labagala 2, Almacin 2, Omandan 1.

BURGER KING 69—Buenafe 20, David 9, Bravo 9, Vitay 8, Ballesteros 6, Saguindel 5, Del Rosario 4, Mendoza 2, Garrido 2, Dizon 2, Aquino 2, Te 0, Urbiztondo 0.

Quarters: 25-9, 39-27, 63-46, 81-69

Bombers, Archers collide for FilOil lead

GAMES TODAY
(*The Arena, San Juan*)
2 p.m.—JRU vs La Salle
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs PCU
6 p.m.—UE vs Letran

JOSE RIZAL UNIVERsity and La Salle clash in a battle of unbeaten teams in the FilOil-Flying V Preseason Invitational Cup today at the Arena in San Juan.

The Bombers, with three straight wins, also tries to secure a berth in the next round with a win over the Archers at 2 p.m.

The Archers, seeking a grand return to the UAAP this season, are gunning for a third victory and a second win over an NCAA team after toppling reigning champ San Beda early this week.

Ateneo tries to bounce back from Thursday's loss to National University when it takes on Philippine Christian University at 4 p.m. while University of the East seeks a third straight win when it tangles with Letran at 6.

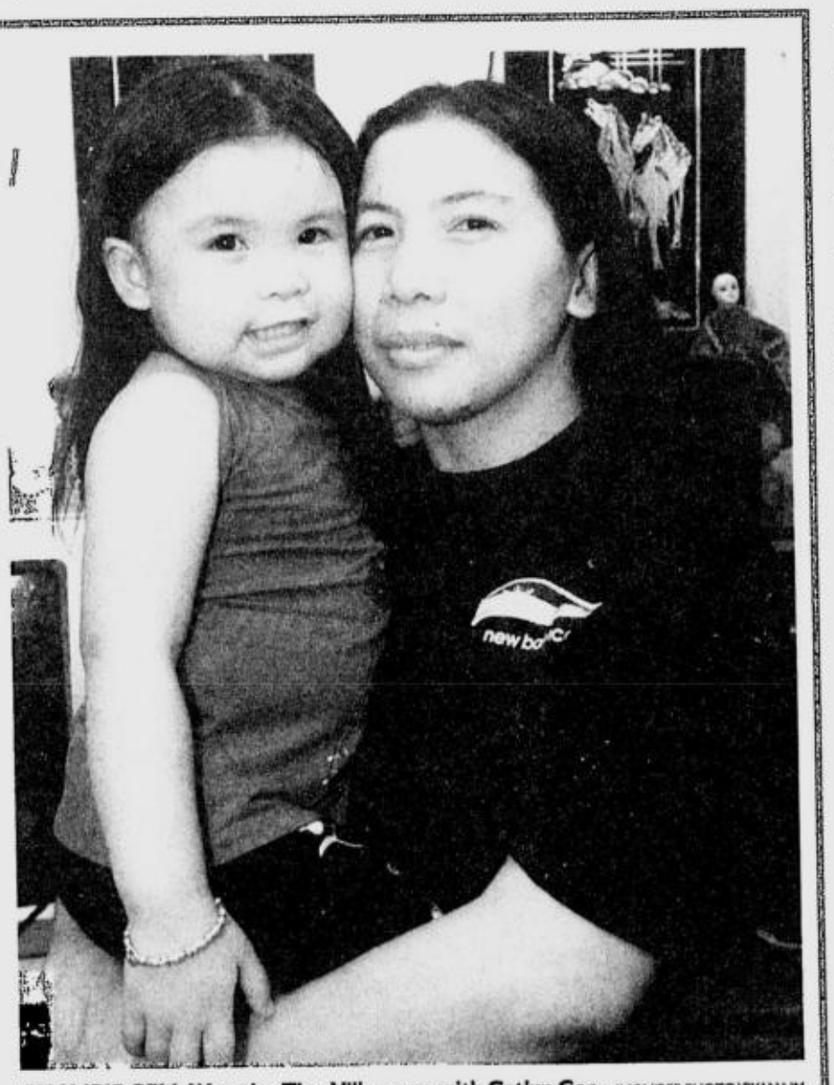
The Eagles, who are using their second stringers, have a 1-4 record like the Dolphins, who are banned from the NCAA this season.

The Knights (2-2) are bidding to halt a two-game skid.

The NCAA host this year, JRU will have to get big numbers from Marvin Hayes, Jason Nocom, Maui Pradas and JM Wilson—all of them veterans of last year's team under coach Ariel Vanguardia, to get past the Archers.

UE coach Franz Pumaren is expected to count on Rico Maierhofer, JV Casio, Ty Tang and Cholo Villanueva. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Mat star wrestles with motherhood —and triumphs



CHAMP'S GEM: Wrestler Tina Villanueva with Catlyn Gee. INQUIRER PHOTO/ RYAN LIM

By Jasmine W. Payo

WHENEVER WRESTLER CRISTINA Villanueva-Vergara rolls on the mat during training, she would often glance at a corner of the gym.

The national team member has to check if her mascot of a two-year-old daughter, Catlyn Gee, had indeed stayed put.

"Sometimes I have to bring her to Rizal (Memorial) during training because no one would take care of her," says the 28-year-old mom. "*Pag sinabi ko naman umupo lang siya, sumusunod siya* (When I tell her to sit, she follows)."

Villanueva-Vergara, a two-time Southeast Asian Games gold medalist, confides that, for a national athlete, raising a young child requires even more focus.

"It's hard, especially when she was younger," she says of her bubbly first child. "It was hard to concentrate because I was also thinking about my daughter. I couldn't keep my full attention during practice."

A competitive wrestler for 12 years, Villanueva-Vergara admits she can't give up her sport just yet.

"*Mas masakit pa nga mag*-wrestling *kaysa manganak* (It's more difficult to wrestle than to give birth)," she says laughing. "But I can't quit. I've been in this sport for so long, I've fallen in love with it."

And as Villanueva-Vergara points out, her decision to be a mother was as well thought-out as her competition gameplan.

"I even asked permission from my coach," says Villanueva-Vergara, who's been married to Philippine Navy instructor Edgardo Vergara for four years.

Tabbed as the top female wrestler in the country, Villanueva-Vergara got pregnant just a couple of months after capturing the 51-kg women's wrestling gold medal in the 2003 Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam.

But after giving birth in October 2004, the wrestling itch came back a bit too soon.

"One month after I gave birth, I was training again," says the 5-foot-3 wrestler. "I was breastfeeding her for one month. *Mahirap din, puyat ka* (It's difficult, you sleep late). I gained weight, I went up to 67 kg. So I had to reduce and exercise. In wrestling, if you miss one week of training, you're back to zero. So after I gave birth, I was like a beginner."

With her daughter only 3 months old, Villanueva-Vergara decided to leave with her team to train in Mongolia for five months.

"*Iniisip ko na lang na lahat ng ginagawa ko para sa anak ko* (I just think that everything that I do is for my daughter)," she says.

Besides, the muscular mom notes that she was blessed to have her own mother living near her home in Taguig.

"I concentrated on my training, I didn't worry because I knew that my mother was taking care of my daughter," she says. "My husband understands. He doesn't want me to quit."

And the sacrifice paid off as Villanueva-Vergara rolled to her second championship in the 2005 SEA Games in Manila.

As Villanueva-Vergara trains for her title defense in the Thailand SEA Games this December, she confesses that combining sports and motherhood involves a lot of teamwork that still extends to her 52-year-old mother Nymfa.

"I practice several times a day, from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.," she says. "My husband is also always on duty. My mom helps me out, especially when she knows that I'm tired."

But it's an exhaustion that wears off quickly, she says: "*Totoo pala na pag nakikita mo anak mo, nawawala lahat ng pagod mo* (It's true that when you see your child, all the stress fades away)."

Bayron still on top by 3; DL Paz rises

BAYRON

JAY BAYRON KEPT his three-stroke advantage with a one-over-par 73 while Bambee de la Paz grabbed the lead in the ladies' side as Cyna Rodriguez was disqualified for signing a wrong scorecard yesterday in the second round of the Sabah Amateur Open in Sabah, Malaysia.

Bayron, who seized control with a two-under 70 Friday at the Sabah Golf Club, knocked in an eight-foot birdie to cap a round of 36-37 and stay in front of a charging Ictsi teammate Ferdie Aunzo with a 143 aggregate heading into the final round of the 54-hole championship.

Aunzo, last year's Fil-Am Championship, rallied with the day-best 71. He gunned down three birdies against two three-putt bogeys.

Miko Alejandro turned in a 73 and kept third place at 147, raising prospects of an RP sweep of the annual event which drew 128 players.

De la Paz matched par 72 and benefited from Rodriguez's blunder to move within 18 holes of ruling her division with a 147 total.

But she has to contend with compatriot Dottie Ardina, who rose to second at 148 after a 73.

Anya Tanpinco, just one behind Rodriguez overnight, hobbled with a 78 and slid to third at 150 while Chihiro Ikeda, the other member of the Ictsi golf team, also made a 78 for 154.

Rodriguez, who showed the way with a 71 Friday, actually carded a 74 and would have been in the lead at 145 had she not signed a wrong scorecard. Tanpinco, her marker, scored a bogey—instead of a double bogey—on the par-4 15th.

Over in Kuching, Malaysia, Michael Bibat shot a 73 to move within two strokes of HJ Sieta of Brunei after the second round of the Naim Sarawak Masters at the Kelab Sarawak course.

Sieta, who fired a 71 in the first round, carded a 74 for 145.

Bibat stood at 147, overtaking Anthony Fernando, who started the round one shot off Sieta but struggled to a 77 and slid to third at 149.

Lady pair nails Forest Hills title

ANTIPOLO—THE LADIES TANDEM OF VIOLY Pegels and Hedy See came from behind to nip the Allan Yap-Richie Santos combine and win the Division I championship of the recent Forest Hills Invitational presented by Callaway and Hyundai.

Pegels-See tallied a final-round 52 points under the Stableford scoring system to total 125 as defending champion Yap-Santos floundered with a 39.

Ramon Villarete and Chito Ilumin went wire-to-wire in Division II, shooting a 49 for 130 points and a four-shot victory over Lily Young and Beth Menchavez (49-126), even as Charlie Kim and Don Lee romped off with top Division III honors after a 52 and a 136 total.

Boy Morales and Ton Ton Roman settled for the Division III runner-up trophy, winding up seven points behind after a 47-129, while the father and son tandem of Ramon and Eduardo Garcia was crowned overall champion after a 53 for a 141 aggregate.

Raffy Garcia and Jaime Hernandez won the low gross division title with 104 points at the close of the four-day event that attracted more than 400 players.

The biggest winner of the event, however, was Mollie Antonil, a guest of member Bobi Ho.

Antonil went home with a brand new Hyundai Getz, one of four special prizes for a hole-in-one. The car and the other prizes were raffled off during the awarding ceremony.

NCA World Champs derby slated

TOP FOREIGN BREEDERS JOE WOLCOTT AND ROY Ogol head the foreign challenge in the National Cockers Association (NCA) World Championship slated June 5, 7 and 9 in Pasay City.

Based on the number and quality of Filipino and American entries, the 2007 NCA international derby is the most prestigious in the world, according to Wolcott and Ogol.

Apart from Wolcott and Ogol, the other Americans expected to be in the tough starting field are international campaigners Dan Gray, Butch Lawson, Larry Whitehead, Bobby Fairchild and Larry Barletta.

Pitted against the Americans are some of the country's finest cockfighters, including Rep. Iggy Arroyo, Gov. Ito Ynares, Patrick Antonio, Rey Briones, Ric de Guzman, Michael Co, Lando Celebre, JV Magsaysay, Ruel Ricafort, Edgar Santos, NCA chair Rudy Albano, Pico Berin, Secretary Ronnie Puno, Manny Pacquiao, Jerry Ramos, Tony Lasalla, Benjie Lim, Eric dela Rosa, Bebot Villar, Art Sevilla, Edwin Santos, Jun Santiago, Essie Mallillin, Edwin Abella, Boy Jiao, Manny Santos, Efren Canlas and Mario Villamor.

REUNION OF CHAMPIONS: Past winners will be reunited as they vie for supremacy in the 2007 World Slasher Cup, the Olympics of Cockfighting, slated May 22, 24 and 26 at the Araneta Coliseum. The former champions include (from top left), Roger Roberts, Ray Alexander, Brian Corkren, Johnny Phillips, Mike Formosa, Richard Lanier, Chris Nesmith and Filipinos Ed Bacud and Gerard Ampil.

RACING TIPS
BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—Strong Boy (4), Touch Of Glory (1), Golden Rice (5)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Weekend Master (7), Iverson (1), Dazzling Affair (6), Prince Larry (4)
Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Gallant Warrior (3), Crystal City (4), Tower Of Strength (2), Hakuna Matata (8), Allysa's Choice (5)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Refreshing (6), Seniority (2), C Tonet (4), Mister Cool (1)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Stream Time (1), Beat D'Heat (4), Selectee (5), Archer (6)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Jajle (5), Valentine Girl (3), Master Kenneth (9), All Class (3), Special Lad (4)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Capretiosa/Tabako (2), Black Mamba (1), Unopposed (3), Euromax (6)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Common Goal (1), Medal's Time (5), The Dominator (7), Sovereign Dancer (6), Vojamac (9), God Is Good (11)
Race 9—(Qrt/Tri)—Mr. Lucas (6), Dashing (7), Nitty Gritty (1), El Love Señora (5)
Race 10—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Daljobo's Success (8), Heroics (9), Pride And Joy (3), Dancing Polly (4), Miss Fantastic (7)
Race 11—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Tellmenolies (11), Zaniga (4), Manila Magic (2), Farragut's Order (7), Material Ruler (3), EJ Forever (6)
Race 12—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Just A Moment (9), High Pocket (3), Uncle Buck (5), House Of Riches (1), Good Humour (4)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Dulce My Love (11), Dancing Queen (4), Brazen Truth (2), Beautiful Jaeda (9), Ambot Sa Imo (6), Music Quest (8)

Warriors trim Jazz lead to 2-1

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA—FROM THE first three-pointer to the last dramatic dunk, Baron Davis and his Warriors remained golden at home in the playoffs.

Davis had 32 points and nine assists, Jason Richardson scored 25 points and Golden State remained unbeaten in Oakland during the postseason with a 125-105 victory over the Jazz in Game 3 of their second-round series Friday night, cutting Utah's lead to 2-1.

Richardson hit four of the Warriors' NBA record-tying 11 3-pointers in the first half, and Al Harrington added 15 points as Golden State shrugged off two tough losses in Utah with yet another confident, free-flowing performance.

The Warriors finished with 15 triples while forcing 25 Utah turnovers.

And Davis' brilliance finally ended a comfortable victory in the rocking arena where the Warriors beat top-seeded Dallas three times in the first round to the same 110-decibel soundtrack.

Game 4 in the best-of-seven series is Sunday night in Oakland, with Game 5 back in Salt Lake City on Tuesday.

After Utah cut Golden State's 30-point lead in half during the fourth quarter, Davis closed the door, punctuating yet another memorable spring night with a vicious one-handed dunk into the mug of shot-blocking specialist Andrei Kirilenko with 2:48 left.

Carlos Boozer had 19 points and 11 rebounds for the Jazz, who landed gracelessly in California after riding high from Wednesday's emotional overtime victory in Game 2.

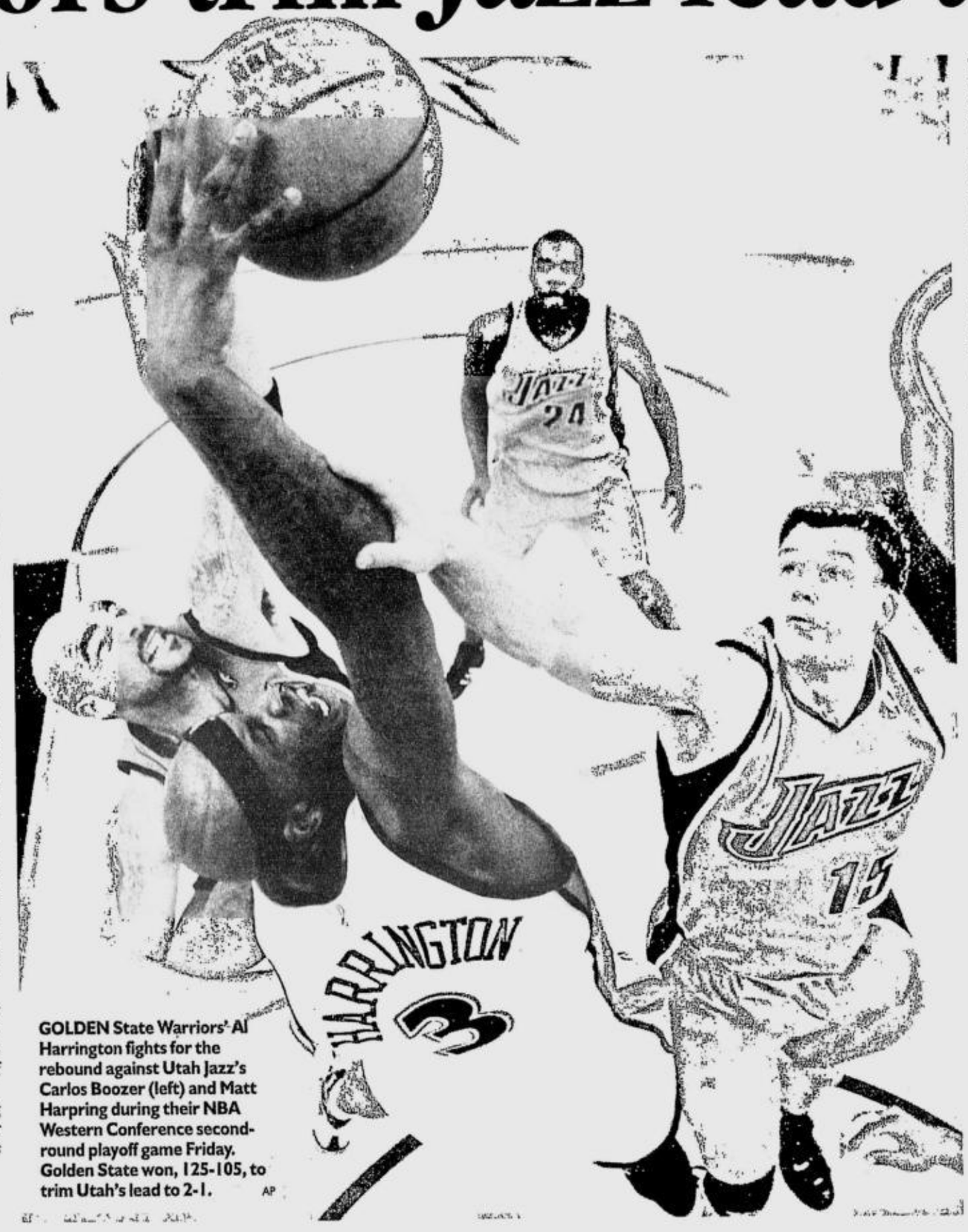
Deron Williams added 14 points and six assists, but Golden State stretched its 21-point halftime lead to 30 midway through the third quarter before the Jazz finally responded.

The eighth-seeded Warriors have lost four of their five road playoff games, but they're 4-0 at home in the arena where they went 30-11 in the regular season.

Their playoff-starved fans—replete in another collection of gold T-shirts that turned Oracle Arena into a big bowl of bubbling custard—rarely were quiet during Golden State's first home second-round playoff game since May 12, 1991.

Davis produced a personal highlight reel in the second half after Golden State faltered, mixing spinning passes and jumpers with the dunk that will live for decades in NBA highlight reels.

Davis even got a technical foul after throwing it down, apparently for excessive celebration—but the screaming arena backed him up. *AP*



GOLDEN State Warriors' Al Harrington fights for the rebound against Utah Jazz's Carlos Boozer (left) and Matt Harpring during their NBA Western Conference second-round playoff game Friday. Golden State won, 125-105, to trim Utah's lead to 2-1. AP

Mickelson ahead by one; Woods survives cut

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FLORIDA—Phil Mickelson put behind him a day of scrambling and poor driving by spectacularly eagling the par-five 16th to snatch a one-shot lead in the Players Championship second round on Friday.

The American left-hander, joint pacesetter overnight with South African Rory Sabbatini, fired a level-par 72 in blazing afternoon sunshine and swirling breezes at the Tournament Players Club at Sawgrass.

While Tiger Woods flirted with missing a PGA Tour cut for only the fifth time, Mickelson recovered from four bogeys in eight holes around the turn to finish on five-under 139.

Unheralded Australian Nathan Green birdied two of the last five holes for a 69 to occupy second place with compatriots Peter Lonard (72) and Rod Pampling (71) a further stroke back in a tie for third. Also at three under were American Sean O'Hair (69) and Swede Carl Pettersson (71).

World number one Woods, a stroke outside the projected cut line with three holes to play, birdied the par-five 16th en route to a one-over 73.

That left him on four-over 148 and among 79 players who qualified for the weekend when the guillotine finally fell at five over.

Among those missing out were former European number one Colin Montgomerie, 2005 winner Fred Funk and defending champion Stephen Ames of Canada.

"No doubt about it, if you're fighting the cut line, you don't really have your best stuff," Woods said. *Reuters*

Nowitzki MVP

DALLAS—DIRK NOWITZKI HAS BEEN chosen as the NBA's MVP for leading the Dallas Mavericks to one of the best regular seasons in league history, a team official told The Associated Press on Friday.

The formal announcement will come Tuesday at a news conference, said the team official, who requested anonymity because the announcement is pending.

Nowitzki and the Mavericks went from a league-best 67 wins to a stunning first-round elimination by eighth-seeded Golden State, with the big German quite un-MVP-like for most of the series.

Nowitzki becomes the first MVP in 25 years not to win a single playoff series. It last happened to Houston's Moses Malone in 1981-82. *AP*

Delasin six shots off; J-Ro hangs on

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA—SARAH Lee shook off some pre-round nerves and avoided the mistakes that plagued most everyone else Friday, shooting a bogey-free, 3-under 68 to take a two-shot lead over Becky Morgan halfway through the Michelob Ultra Open.

Fil-American Dorothy Delasin, after a second-round 68, is tied for sixth with Kim In-kyung (68), Stacy Prammanasudh (70), Natalie Gulbis (70), Brittany Lincicome (71) and Birdie Kim (72) at 5-under.

The Philippines' Jennifer Rosales bounced back from an opening-round 73, likewise shooting a 68 that enabled her to make the cut at 141.

Rosales sits in 39th place along with nine others, including Australia's Karrie Webb (73).

Morgan had just one blip on her card—a bogey from a bunker on the par-4 14th—but followed that with four birdies in five holes. Her 65 left her at 9-under 133, two better than Amy Hung, who had a 68 after making bogeys on two of her first three holes. *AP*

GAME TODAY (*NBA on Basketball TV*)
5 a.m.—Cleveland vs New Jersey

Nadal ties McEnroe win run

ROME—RAFAEL NADAL beat Novak Djokovic, 6-2, 6-3, Friday for his 75th consecutive win on clay, matching John McEnroe's streak for most victories on one surface.

McEnroe, who watched Nadal's la-test win at the Rome Masters from a courtside seat, had a 75-match winning streak on indoor-carpet between September 1983 and April 1985.

"I wasn't thinking about that. I was just thinking about the semifinals," said Nadal, who last lost on clay in April 2005.

Nadal can break the record in Saturday's semifinals against fourth-seeded Nikolay Davydenko, who rallied to beat Tommy Robredo, 1-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Filippo Volandri followed up his win over Roger Federer by beating 12th-seeded Tomas Berdych, 6-2, 6-3, becoming the first Italian to reach the final four in Rome since Adriano Panatta in 1978.

"This is beyond my own expectations," said Volandri. *AP*

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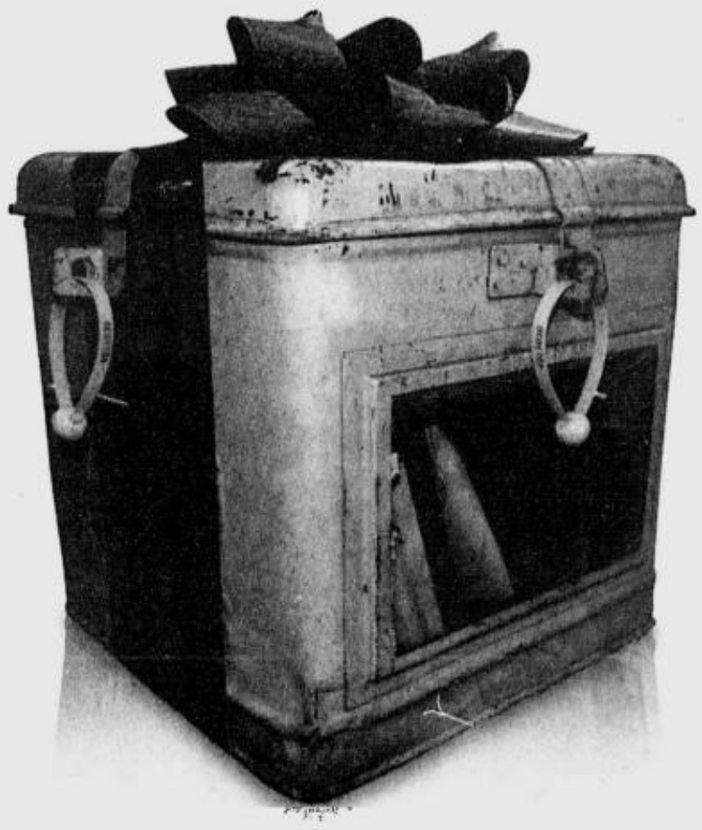

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Falcons soar with Tigers; Tams nail No. 5

ADAMSON UNIVERSITY JOINED UAAP CHAMPion University of Santo Tomas atop the leaderboard, downing Polytechnic University of the Philippines, 58-55, yesterday for a 3-0 record in Group A of the Nike Summer League women's basketball tournament at the FEU gym.

In Group B, Far Eastern University crushed Feati, 77-33, for its fifth straight victory that assured the Lady Tamaraws a quarterfinal seat.

The Adamson Lady Falcons, UAAP champions in the 2003 and 2004 seasons, got 14 points apiece from Ghine Buendia and Jho Carpo.

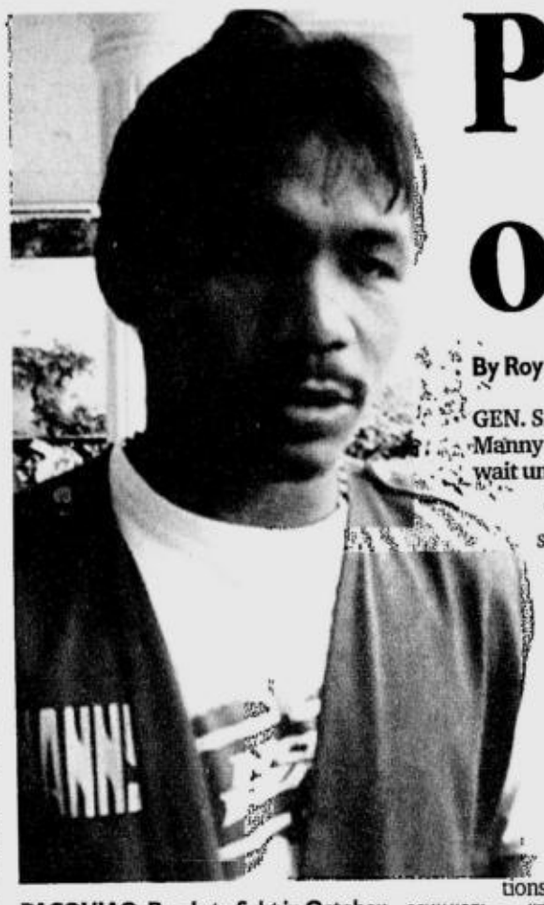
In the other Group A game, Wendelyn Alvarez led five players in double figures as the Philippine College of Criminology outclassed Emilio Aguinaldo College, 92-64, for its third win against a lone loss.

In junior play, La Salle Green Hills demolished PCU-Dasmariñas, 113-54, to register its second straight win in Group C

Other junior games saw Perpetual Help edging Benedictine, 74-72, for a 3-1 mark in Group C and Philippine College of Criminology subduing Southville, 74-51, for its second win in Group B.

Inquirer Sports Staff

Pacquiao keen on Guzman bout



PACQUIAO: Ready to fight in October. ROY LUARCA

By Roy Luarca

GEN. SANTOS CITY—A FIGHT AGAINST JOAN GUZMAN SOUNDS RIGHT for Manny Pacquiao. But the unbeaten fighter from the Dominican Republic has to wait until October before getting a crack against the Filipino ring icon.

"He (Guzman) is okay with me," said Pacquiao in Filipino yesterday at his P38-million mansion here. "That would be a good fight."

Top Rank top honcho Bob Arum, who is here to provide moral support for Pacquiao's congressional bid, had earlier named Guzman as the No. 1 prospect among Pacquiao's possible opponents.

Pacquiao, however, feels he will need at least three months' rest after the elections before plunging back into training.

"I'll be ready by October," he said. "September is too close."

Pacquiao, sun-tanned and leaner due to the rigors of the political campaign, said the New York City-based Guzman should provide him stiffer competition than Mexican Jorge Solis, whom he stopped in eight rounds in San Antonio, Texas, on April 14.

"*Si Solis di ko pa sinusuntok di na alam kung saan tatakbo* (Solis didn't know where to run even before I hit him)," said Pacquiao, now sporting a goatee to go with his beard.

The 31-year-old Guzman, who has decked 17 of his 26 fight victims, holds the WBO super featherweight crown.

If negotiations push through, the Pacquiao-Guzman fight is likely to be staged in Vancouver, according to Arum who cited the presence of about 150,000 Filipinos in the area.

Also on Arum's list are unbeaten Venezuelan Erwin Valero, Mexican future Hall of Famer Marco Antonio Barrera and Mexican Humberto Soto.

WBC super featherweight titlist Juan Manuel Marquez is only fifth on the list. He is said to be asking a big purse that Arum deemed is not feasible, considering that the Mexican has "no fan base."

Pacquiao said he is also willing to face any of the three, but stressed that Soto needs to get past his younger brother Bobby first on June 9 in New York.

Pacquiao said he will be watching Bobby's fight as he is slated to be honored as the world's best fighter by the Boxing Writers Association of America on June 8.

Manny has slight edge in his other fight

By Hermie Rivera

IT WAS A CONTROVERSY-LADEN SUNDAY at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas where boxing followers awaited the second coming of Oscar De La Hoya in a failing bid to keep the World Boxing Council junior middleweight crown against Floyd Mayweather Jr.

The crowd that trooped to the site and the quarter billion others who saw it on TV and its ancillary outlets are still divided on how the fight was judged, with a large segment crying foul over the controversial verdict

Be that as it may, De La Heist's, er Oscar's, controversial loss still buzzes the rounds after establishing a new pay-per-view record where a total of 2.15 million households shelled $54.95 for a whopping $120 million. This topped the 1.99 million buys in the second Mike Tyson-Evander Holyfield "bite fight."

Boxing followers now await a sequel of the high-profile epic—this time starring our mighty Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao versus his first big time victim Marco Antonio Barrera.

Manny's promoter, Bob Arum, is in town observing his ward's run for a congressional seat in the first district of South Cotabato.

An announcement from Arum in Las Vegas on Manny's next fight after the elections is likely.

Still euphoric from his notable wins over

COMMENTARY

Erik Morales (twice by KO) and ambitious Jorge Solis (who fell in the 8th round), the GenSan Marvel is in a new role as challenger to the scion of a clan that has controlled that part of South Cotabato for the past three decades.

Manny is relaxed and easy-going while making his daily rounds, pressing the flesh and making sure his votes will be counted to ensure his election as the first ever—bar none—boxing idol to win a seat in the House of Representatives.

From where this corner sits, Manny Pacquiao has acquired an edge in the runup for the district's plum with strong support from his *masa* (ordinary folks) followers, businessmen and even from the ubiquitous middle class and civic groups such as the Rotarians, Lions, Jaycees, Kiwanis and, would you believe, the Knights of Columbus. Not to forget the masons and other aggregations.

Manny, who is touted to deliver the goods in an area new to his calling, is intent on winning tomorrow's electoral exercise so as to pave the way for his exit from the ring after two fight schedules.

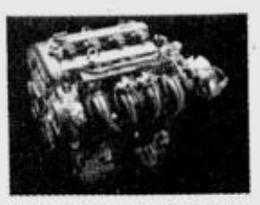
Out-of-town observers, and they count a lot, are saying that Manny can beat his tenacious foe in a fair contest owing to the ever-growing support from voters who've come to accept the reality that he alone can help his district regain its lost footing—politically.

But he has to beat first his wisp of a rival, Darlene Antonino Custodio, who is equally intent on keeping her post at all costs.

It's been easy to lose track of Pacquiao's plans since he has acquired a new sense of belonging in an area alien to his haunts.

But given his solid credentials as a boxer (43-3-2, 35 KOs) coupled with his compelling appeal as a fighter par excellence, it should'nt come as a surprise he'll emerge victorious once more.

Will the Gentleman from the first district of South Cotabato yield to some clarificatory questions?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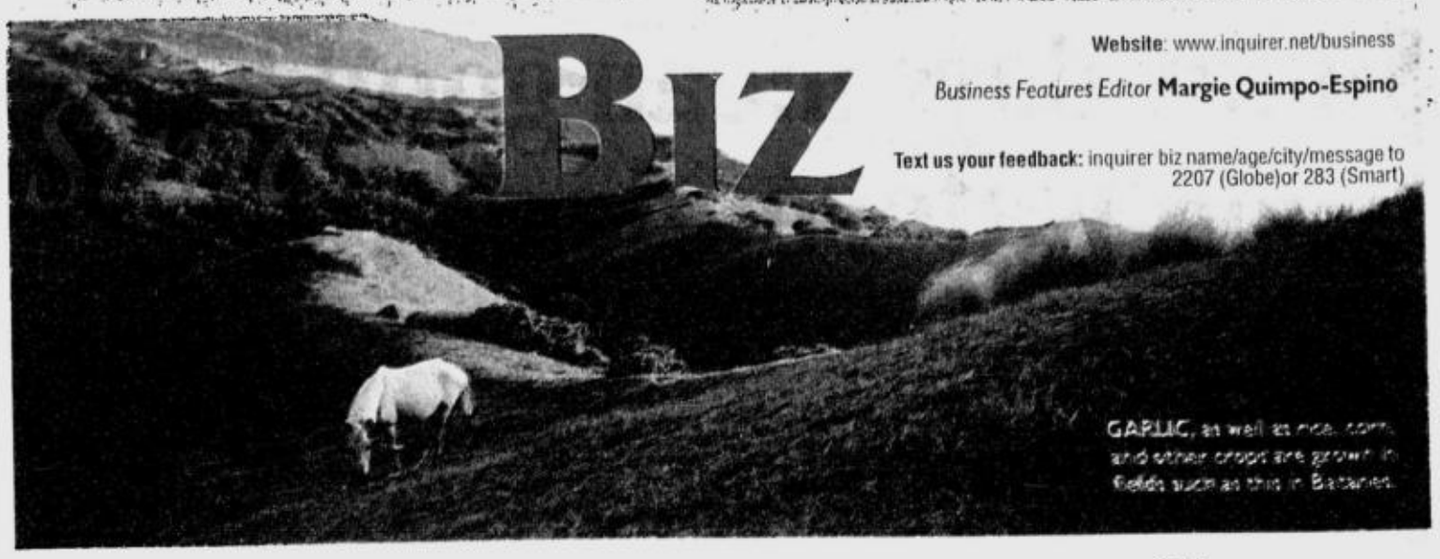

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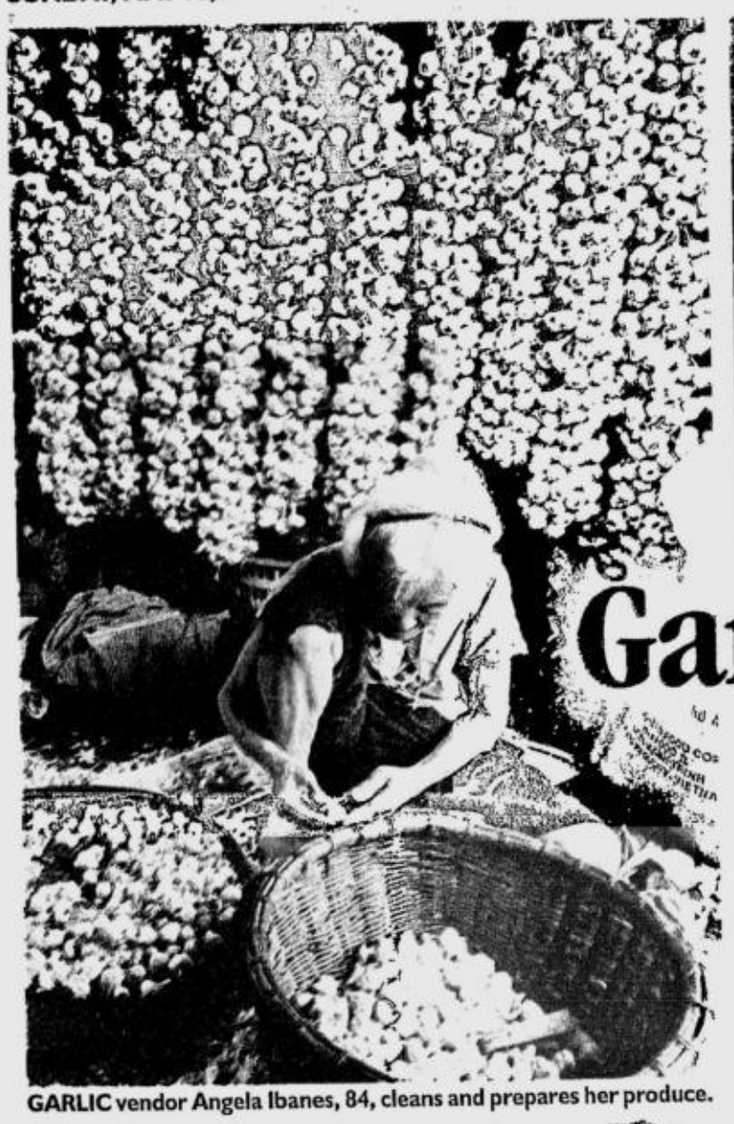
Garlic keeps Batanes afloat



GARLIC vendor Angela Ibanes, 84, cleans and prepares her produce.

Text and Photos by EV Espiritu

ITBAYAT, BATANES—It was in 1954 during the administration of Gov. Marcus Malupa when the island folk discovered organic garlic.

Batanes garlic or "acos" is a highly priced spice because it reputedly tastes better than the more famous garlic from Ilocos.

Acos sells for P80 a kilogram in the Ilocos region, but goes for just P50 a kg in the public market here.

Before garlic came to Batanes, the Ivatans in Basco, Sabtang and this town survived on its fish catch and farm crops, according to Faustina Cano, former history teacher of the Batanes National Agricultural High School.

She said it was an Ilocano immigrant, named Florendo Garcia, who first realized that the terrain here was suited to garlic.

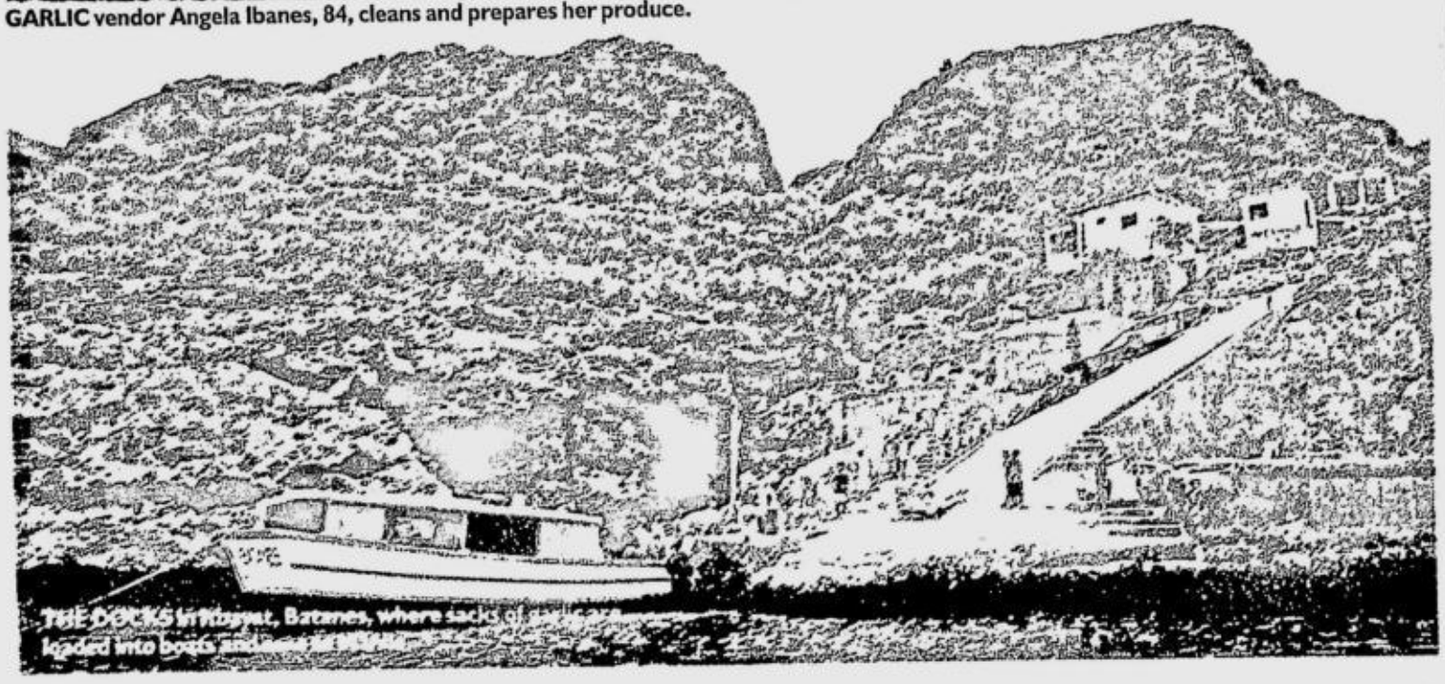
Itbayat is a fortress floating on the ocean. Acos grows on soil cultivated by slash-and-burn farmers on the islands.

Garlic can only be harvested once a year because of the difficult terrain and the storms common to this northernmost province.

The best time to plant garlic is September—the start of Batanes' "shortest summer season"—to allow traders a February harvest.

Revenue from Garcia's garlic

GARLIC/ B2



THE DOCKS in Itbayat, Batanes, where sacks of [illegible] loaded into boats

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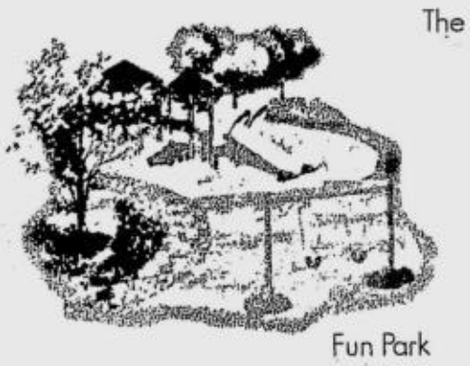
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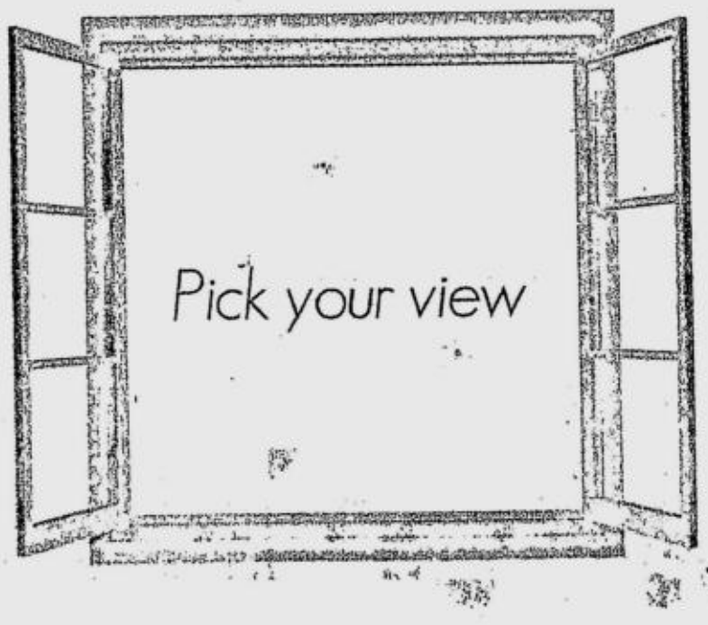

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Sunny days mean good harvests for 'watermelon village'

Text and photos
by Juan Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

THE KIDS of San Roque, Canaman, Camarines Sur, beat the heat by enjoying watermelons.

BARANGAY Captain Mariano Arroyo in the middle of a vast field planted with watermelon.

CANAMAN, CAMARINES SUR —The people of San Roque, known here as the "watermelon village," always look forward to the dry season.

This started in the 1980s when a group of growers from Laguna contracted villagers to plant watermelons on three hectares of farm land when the harvesting of palay, their main crop, was over and the rain-fed rice fields were about to be left lying idle until the next planting season many months after.

The villagers went along with the Laguna growers' proposal and things were never the same again.

They entered into a partnership with the people from Laguna and that, according to Barangay-Captain Mariano Arroyo, opened a livelihood opportunity for rice farmers during what used to be the idle and unproductive months of January to June.

"Before that, rice farmers here would be working on somebody else's farms elsewhere or would take on odd jobs to make ends meet during the dry season," Arroyo says in Bikol.

From that 3-hectare land, which served as a demonstration farm, in the 1980s, the areas now planted to watermelons here every dry season have grown to 140 hectares, generating about P110,000 in gross sales per hectare in one season.

The village chief says that for the current season alone, there are 300 farmers involved in the venture.

A farmer invests at least P30,000 per hectare and, barring adverse situations such as heavy downpours or pest infestation, he can make a net of P75,000 to P80,000.

Big break

Earnings from watermelon, Arroyo says, enable the farmers to buy their own farm equipment, finance house improvements, and buy some of life's amenities.

Arroyo says he and the farmers who now benefit from the venture are grateful to the people from Laguna who gave them the break and shared with the villagers the know-how in planting watermelons.

The year that followed the farmers' first successful harvest of watermelons, the folks from Laguna returned to San Roque to train several farmers on the proper way of growing the crop. When the training was over, they entered into an agreement where the villagers would supply the Laguna folks with watermelons during the summer months.

Eventually, the farmers learned the trade and had started marketing their produce themselves. They now sell to any buyer who offers the best possible prices for their produce.

Over the years, watermelon planting became part of the production cycle in the village, making what used to be an idle and unproductive period in the lives of the farmers in San Roque very productive. These days, watermelon planting comes right after harvesting the palay planted and grown during the wet season.

Spreading opportunities

The watermelon venture was opened not only to those who own land but also to farm hands, who are hired by landowners during cropping seasons for palay. Nicanor Ogarte, 37, a landless farmer, says the watermelon season gives him a chance to earn even during the dry season as some landowners rent out their lots at P5,000 per hectare per season.

Thriving venture

His watermelon harvest this season, Ogarte says, has already been sold to a buyer for P110,000.

Out of this, he says, he'll net P75,000, a portion of which will be used as capital for his small buy-and-sell venture and some will be used for the next watermelon season.

Lourdes Adolfo, an agricultural technician, says San Roque is suitable for watermelon growing because of the low salinity of its clay-loam farmlands.

She admits that the regional office of the Department of Agriculture has extended very limited support for the watermelon growing here. Despite this, however, the San Roque farmers continue to cash in on the mass production of watermelons.

"If you go around the village, you would notice that it (dry season) is a time of plenty for Casuray (the native name of the village)," she says, noting that it is during this season that villagers buy home appliances and undertake improvements in their homes.

The planting of watermelons, she says, should be started in January when the weather is very ideal in achieving the best yield possible. Doing it in March might result in failure, she adds because of the intermittent rains that come the following months, when the fruits are just starting to mature.

"Maturing watermelons are very sensitive to rain. A sudden downpour and temperature change can make the fruits crack," she explains.

The village chief, a planter himself, says the farmers in San Roque hold consultations during the week of planting to synchronize their production activity since simultaneous planting lessens the risk of crop infestation.

"But it is the weather that is most important. When there is no rain, we celebrate for we are assured of good harvests. We even love the El Niño," Arroyo says in jest.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo unveils the marker at Convergys Corp.'s 8th integrated contact center in the Philippines, in the Asiatown IT Park in Lahug, Cebu. Flanking the President are Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia (left) and Convergys officials led by vice president and country manager Marife Zamora.

Making CENTS

By Riza T. Olchondra

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN A SITUATION where you don't know what to do with your life—what course to take up, what career to build, what business to start, and whether you should sustain it?

Celebrity-turned-businessman Anthony Pangilinan has this advice for people at a crossroads:

"Ask yourself, 'Does it make CENTS?'" he said.

PANGILINAN

For Anthony, a career path or a business venture can only make CENTS, or sense, if the person has Contributed something to it, Excelled in it, has a Natural talent for it, sees it as a Turn-on, and feels Spiritually led toward doing it.

Under the system he devised, the person evaluating himself must rate himself from one to ten on each of the give sub-questions.

Contributed? "When you are entertaining the thought of becoming, say, a journalist, ask yourself how much background you have on writing, reporting, and responsibilities related to it. Have you ever entered writing contests, joined the school paper, or submitted works to any publication? If you have, you can at least say you have some preparation for the responsibilities of your chosen field," he said.

Excelled. "Successful people excel at what they do. They may not be good at everything, but they are specialists in their chosen field or business, and they cultivate this excellence by learning and innovating. If, say, you have invented a fuel-saving home appliance that has won rave reviews at trade fares or been featured in the newspaper, then you may try your hand at product development or something related to it."

Natural. "Training can teach anyone almost anything, but natural talent is much more powerful when honed by training. Have you ever heard someone who had no formal training in singing but just had a great voice and showmanship? 'Natural talent' is often associated with the arts, but it also applies to people who have a natural talent for diplomacy, management, and other skills in business."

Turn-on. "Success will most likely come from pursuing a project, a venture or a vision that you are passionate about. Is there something you like doing, something you want to pursue even if you know you might not earn from it? If there's something you would do even if you don't get paid, do it. The rewards may or may not be monetary, but the fulfillment is priceless, and anyway your work often gets so energized when you are passionate about it that other people will recognize you for it and then you will start earning great money for great work."

Spirit-led. "Listening to one's spirit will not only bring self-fulfillment, but also help to others. And this is the part of success that cannot be quantified. However, it will sustain you through the hard times and motivate you to be the best in your field, whether it's medicine or selling health products!"

Pangilinan, who started out as a product endorser in his teens, then turned radio and TV host and businessman, said he devised this evaluation system he called CENTS over years of running businesses, and it has always worked for him and his staff.

He is currently involved in companies that provide high-impact training and multimedia development, such as Business Works Inc., The Parenting Company, Masters Lighthouse Foundation, Inspire!, Salt and Light Ventures.

Despite juggling many hats, the father of four still finds quality time for family, and recently joined the PLDT Foundation.

He says his jobs have a common denominator, helping people change the way they think in order to become more productive and successful: which is what he does best.

And once something has made CENTS, how do you fund your project or business venture?

"Use other people's money!" he quips. "Seriously, if you can fund it and it all made a lot of CENTS, go do it! If you don't have the money but want to start a venture, get started on a pilot, make it the best that it can possibly can, and market it. Often enough it will be recognized for its potential, and you will be Spirit-led to meet 'Angel investors' who will help you realize the full potential of your dream."

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Garlic keeps...

From page B1

trade afforded him his first "vahay," or authentic stone houses, which secured Batanes' place among the world's heritage sites.

Garcia's sudden affluence inspired his neighbors to also plant garlic, and soon, every household had curtains of garlic hanging over their windows, kitchen and living rooms.

Thanks to garlic, these families were able to send their children to schools in Metro Manila and import food that cannot be grown or bought in the islands.

Only three to four tons of Batanes garlic reach Metro Manila each year, according to former Vice Mayor Simaco Gutierrez.

The small volume of production accounts for the huge demand for acos, he said.

But import liberalization has started to hurt the industry.

Traders here said demand started to drop in 1992 when former President Fidel Ramos reduced the tariff on imported vegetables.

Imported garlic now floods markets in Metro Manila and the provinces, but the Ivatans remain devoted to their spice.

From page B4

tute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care.

THPPMP was inaugurated in 1991 and started manufacturing drugs in February 1993. It started off by manufacturing lagundi tablets and by January 1994, the plant sold its first million lagundi tablets.

LAGUNDI (left) and sambong tablets

Today, the plant produces not only lagundi and sambong tablets but herbal soap as well.

The THPPMP gets its supply of raw materials from a plantation near the plant compound. About five hectares of the plantation are planted with lagundi, two hectares with sambong, and half a hectare with tsaang gubat.

Hipe says that by November, the company might start producing *ampalaya* tablets, to be followed in 2008 by lagundi syrup and probably virgin coconut oil.

The herbal soaps produced by THPPMP include akapulko, calamansi, *labanos*, papaya, *kamias*, carrot and cucumber.

Hipe says sales last year reached more than P15 million. The bulk or P9 million of the sales was accounted for by the Philippine International Trade Corp. and the rest was pitched in by the three Visayas regions.

Encouraged by the results, THPPMP plans to produce at least eight million lagundi tablets and 3.5 million sambong tablets.

"Our sales have been going up," she says, adding that the plant now distributes to private and government hospitals and clinics, drugstores and even local government units and nongovernment organizations.

She says sales have been brisk because the tablets are affordable, selling for just P2 a tablet. And it also helps that people are becoming more receptive to traditional medicine.

"We saw that people are very receptive to alternative medicine, herbal medicine. That's why we have very high sales," Hipe says.

"SAMBONG" leaves being air dried before processing

When 'No' is the way to go

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

REQUESTS COME TOWARD US FROM ALL directions, each seeking to place a demand on our time. Some requests are nagging and others enticing. Each lobbies for a spot on our schedule and pressures us for commitment.

As leaders, how do we know when "no" is the way to go?

Our natural inclination is to say "yes" to almost every opportunity or call for help. For this reason, our lives become overextended, stressful and unfocused.

There are three underlying fears driving us to say "yes."

First, we fear offending the person who is asking for our time. We don't want to hurt our relationship with them, and it pains us to turn them down.

A second fear is lost opportunity. We don't want to miss out. We gravitate toward the center of the action, and opportunities seduce us with their promises of newness and excitement.

A third fear is damaging our reputation. We like to be known as the reliable team member who can be counted on no matter what. We shudder to think of being viewed as a shirker or slacker if we refuse to take on more work.

To begin saying "no," develop a filter for evaluating potential commitments and/or opportunities.

Here are four suggested questions for filtering requests for your time.

1. Does the commitment fall within your realm of responsibility?

With an impulse to improve the organization, a leader may end up dabbling in a wide range of projects.

Although noble in intent, some projects can be a distraction from executing top priorities. Take care of definite job responsibilities first and perform them with excellence before embarking on additional ventures.

2. Does the opportunity align with your vision?

A house divided cannot stand, and a vision divided will likewise perish.

Expending time on non-essential activities will split your focus and minimize your influence.

Be wary of the allure of attractive but off-course opportunities.

3. Does the commitment allow you to operate within your strength zone?

In general, avoid commitments that drag you or your team away from what you do best. Be selective about where your time is invested.

4. Do you have the capacity to follow through on your commitment?

Put simply: Be realistic. You can't do everything, nor can you expect your team to have infinite capacity to take on additional projects.

In her article, Getting to No, on Forbes.com, Hannah Clark gives advice on how to say "no." Among her suggestions:

- Don't decide on the spot

Oftentimes, even as we hang up the phone, we're berating ourselves for agreeing to a commitment we would rather not have made.

Clark recommends allowing yourself time and space to make a clear decision about a commitment: "To avoid agreeing to something you'll regret, try this mantra: 'I'll have to check my schedule. Let me get back to you later.' That gives you time to consider the request and respond on your own terms, by phone, e-mail, or in person."

- Be polite, but direct

According to Clark, in saying "no," don't use excessive niceties when turning down the requester.

For more tactics on saying "no," read, Getting to No, by Hannah Clark at: http://www.forbes.com/2007/03/19/career-commitment-no-lead-careers

(For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please email us at bing@inspire.ph or call 813-2049/2732 and ask for Jesi or Bing. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John. Maxwell.)

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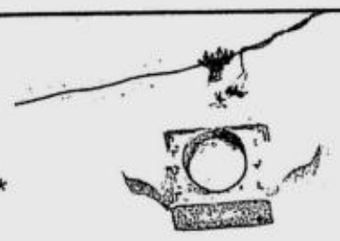
Tax Seminar

Do Tax Incentives End Where Regulations Begin?*



Tax policies have been known to change faster than the green light at your least favorite intersection.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) recently entered into separate Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) with the Board of Investments (BOI) and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), aimed towards attaining a more efficient tax incentives monitoring system. The BIR also amended the Consolidated VAT Regulations, which, to some extent will impact on suppliers of goods and services to both PEZA- and BOI-registered enterprises.

In an ever-changing environment where certainty and constancy are rare commodities, being prepared for these latest issuances may prove to be the next best thing. This seminar will arm participants with knowledge on tax issues which may prove invaluable in preparing their company for what lies ahead. There is truth in the words of the brilliant Louis Pasteur, when he noted that, "chance favors the prepared mind".

Seminar speakers include special guests from the BIR, BOI and PEZA. Participants may raise specific concerns on the issues discussed, as well as other tax issues of general interest, during the open forum.

Date/Venue
May 23, 2007
1:00 to 6:00 pm
Ballroom A, Dusit Hotel Nikko
Makati City

Seminar fee
The seminar fee per participant, inclusive of presentation materials and afternoon snacks, is:

P 3,850 for firm clients
P 4,400 for non-clients

The above fees are inclusive of VAT. Checks should be made payable to "Isla Lipana & Co."

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Philippine National Bank

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on May 29, 2007 at 8:00 a.m. at the Ballroom, Upper Lobby, Century Park Hotel, 599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila.

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Notice of Meeting and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2006 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on May 30, 2006
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2006
5. Approval of the 2006 Annual Report
6. Approval of the Amendment of the Articles of Incorporation to withhold the stockholders' pre-emptive right to subscribe to any new or additional shares of the Bank
7. Ratification of All Acts, Resolutions and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2006 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
8. Election of Directors
9. Appointment of External Auditor
10. Other Matters
11. Adjournment

Minutes of the 2006 Annual Stockholders' Meeting as well as resolutions of the Board of Directors from May 31, 2006 will be available for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary.

Only stockholders of record as of April 30, 2007 will be entitled to notice of, and vote at, this meeting. Registration will begin at 6:00 a.m.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a PROXY to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. on May 24, 2007. Any proxies so received will be validated by the Bank's Corporate Secretary on May 25, 2007, 9:30 a.m., at the Office of the Stock Transfer Agent at Allied Bank Center, 6754 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Pasay City, February 16, 2007

RENATO J. FERNANDEZ
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NOTE: Due to our very limited seats, SME Insight reserves the right to screen interested participants. Selected participants shall be contacted prior to the event date and shall be given a CONFIRMATION CODE. Only parties with confirmation code shall be admitted into the seminar.

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Herbal industry takes root

Text and Photos by Vicente Labro
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—WHEN IT COMES TO THE production of herbal medicine, few can beat the Tacloban Herbal Pharmaceutical Processing and Manufacturing Plant here.

THPPMP also sells herbal soap.

For more than 10 years now, a government-owned herbal pharmaceutical plant here in the city has been manufacturing and selling safe and affordable herbal medicine at a rate of 140,000 tablets a day.

THPPMP at Barangay Bagacay, about 12 kilometers north of the city proper, mainly produces *lagundi* and *sambong* tablets.

Lagundi (*Vitex negundo*), which is also known as *eagundi* in Aklan and *tugas* in some parts of Samar and Leyte, has been traditionally used to cure cough, asthma, fever and food poisoning. It is also said to relieve rheumatic pain, headaches and can be used as an insect repellent and tonic.

Sambong (*Blumea balsamifera L. DC.*), on the other hand, is a diuretic and dissolves stones in the gall bladder. *Tsaang gubat* (*Carmona ratusa [Vahl] Masam.*) is an antispasmodic while *akapulko* can cure tinea flava, ringworm, athlete's foot and scabies.

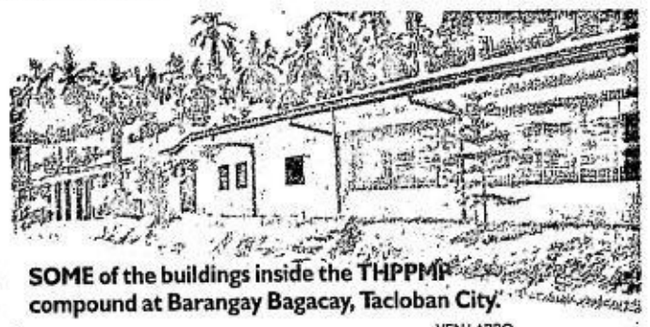
The THPPMP, headed by plant manager Evelina Juaban, is one of only four government-owned herbal processing and manufacturing plants in the country, and the only one in the Visayas.

The others are in Davao and Cotabato in Mindanao and Tuguegarao in Luzon.

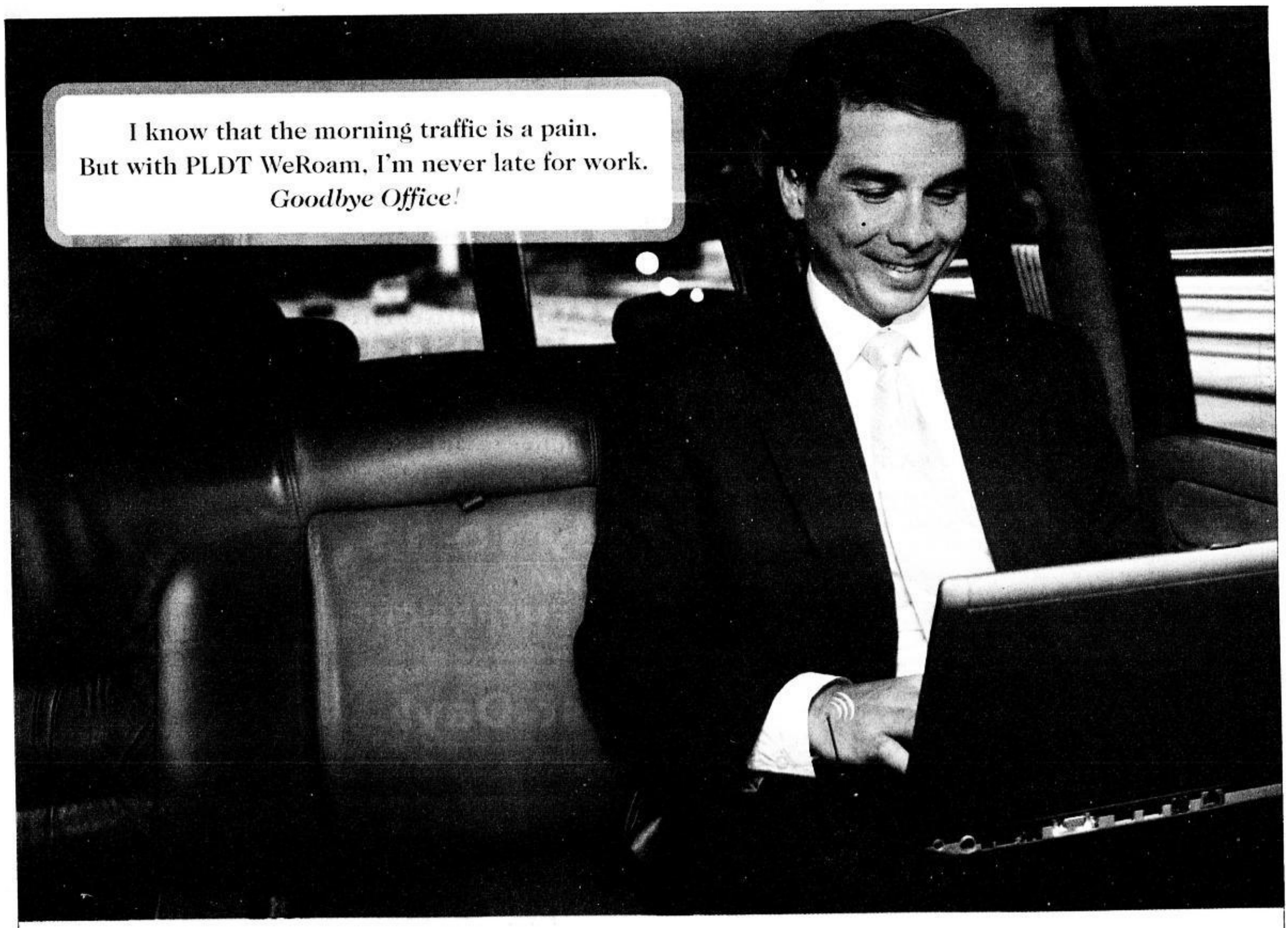
According to THPPMP sales and promotion officer Josephine Hipe, the Tacloban facility is the biggest in terms of capacity and sales among the three other government-owned herbal plants in the country.

The plants are attached agencies of the Department of Health by virtue of RA 8423 or the Traditional and Alternative Medicine Act of 1997, which created the Philippine Insti-

HERBAL/B3



SOME of the buildings inside the THPPMP compound at Barangay Bagacay, Tacloban City.
VEN LABRO



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MOTHER'S DAY MAKEOVER WINNERS

Queen Moms

WE ASKED INQUIRER READERS TO NOMINATE THEIR MOTHERS FOR A MAKEOVER and got such a huge response, it broke our hearts that we could only choose four. We now present the winners as they go through a day of royal treatment at Marionnaud for massage, manicure and pedicure; Dorothy Perkins and Warehouse for some clothes and accessories; Schu for shoes; Highlands China Palace and Gumbo for lunch; Emphasis Salon, Fix at Greenbelt 3, H Salon and Hairworks for hair and makeup.

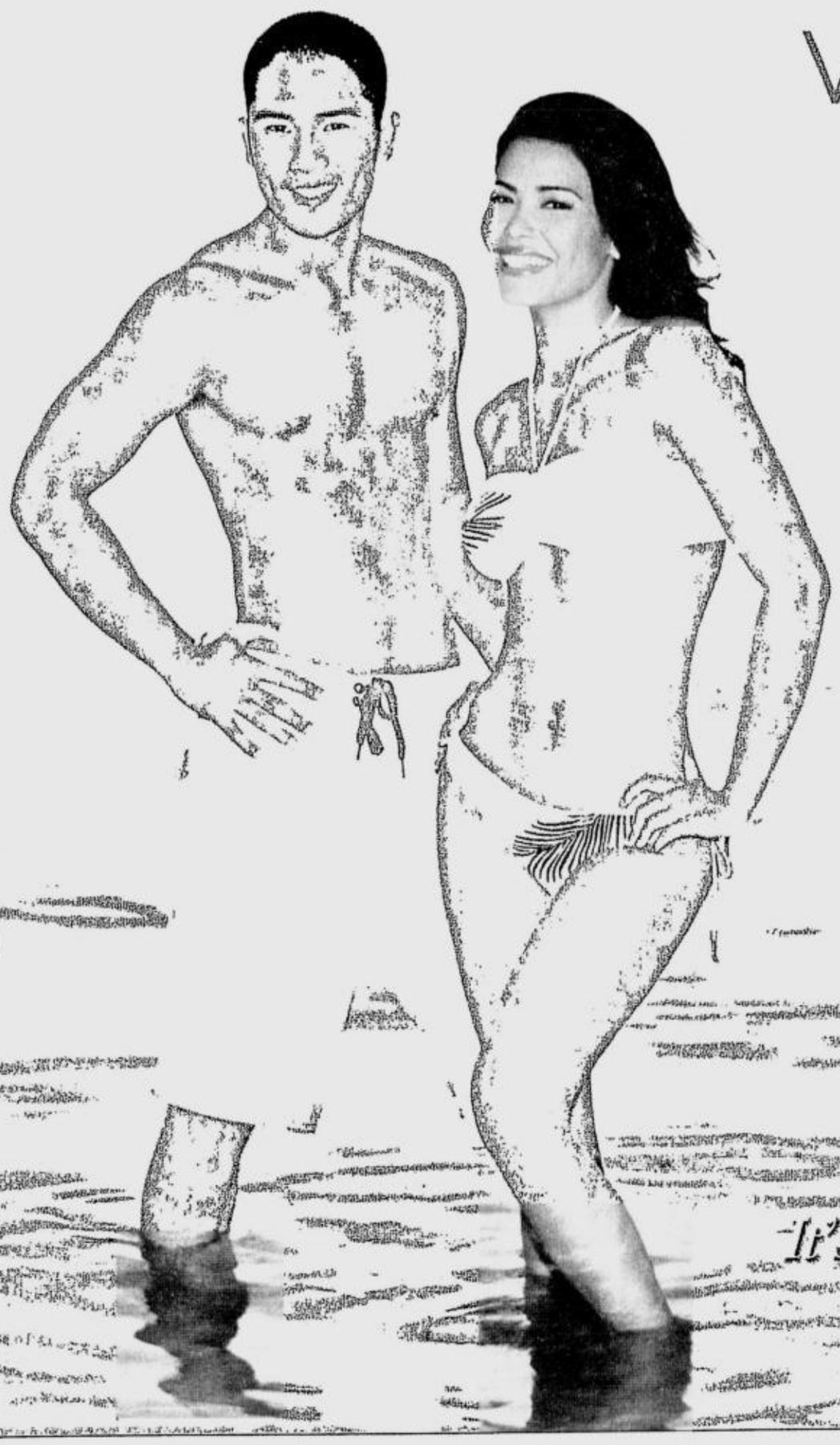
CHARITO de la Cruz, nominated by daughter Marielle

ELSA Lopez, nominated by daughter Lea

ROMANA Miguel, nominated by daughter Michelle

MARILOU Apuan, nominated by daughter Alyssa Lois

Our sincere thanks to Ruby Gan, Marina Benipayo, Apples Aberin-Sadhwani, and Amina Aranaz-Alunan for agreeing to be the celebrity partners of our winners; Marionnaud for the body pampering, Dorothy Perkins and Warehouse for the clothes and accessories, and Schu for shoes, all in SM Mall of Asia; Highlands China Palace and Gumbo for lunch, both in SM Mall of Asia; to Henri Calayag, Nilo and Marissa of H Salon; Trish Chua and Lani of YSL; Lourd Ramos, Black Elago and Margarita Olives of Emphasis Salon; Smashbox Cosmetics; Jun Macabanti of Fix Salon in Greenbelt 3; Jasmine Lisbona and Nelson Aguilar of Hairworks Salon—all for hair and makeup.



ROYAL TREATMENT. The workaholic Elsa Lopez finally finds time to relax.

LAYERED bob does the trick.

LOURD Ramos' living canvas

HAIR colorist Black Elago creates the perfect color combination.

SMASHBOX Cosmetics' Daniel Chavez hands over the goody bag.

Mothers and daughters

Two women from two different worlds become kindred souls

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Daughter of Marietta Alfon Jambora
Photos by Roger Carpio

TWO WOMEN, MOTHERS both, but coming from two very different worlds.

One lives in the limelight, the other shuns attention. One pampers herself in the salon at least twice a month; the other visits the hairdresser at most twice a year—but only for a basic haircut.

One's a certified mall rat, unabashedly admitting she's at the Powerplant Mall in Rockwell, Makati every day. The other confessed to having stepped inside a mall the last time three years ago. And, seriously, this trip to Emphasis Salon would be her first ever visit to the Rockwell Center.

"I only read of Rockwell in the papers. It's really beautiful here," she gushed in Tagalog.

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani, the supermodel and mommy of two, spent a day of fun and pampering with Elsa Lopez, the world-weary mother of five who was one of four mothers selected for a makeover. And, as the long day winded down, both actually gleaned lessons from each other's disparate lives.

"*Buhatin man n'ya ang mabibigay na bilihin, naka-*jeep *man s'ya o* tricycle, *abutan man s'ya ng kasikatan ng araw o ulan, at umuwi man ng mabaho, pawisin at pagod, wala kang maririnig na reklamo sa kanya*," wrote Lopez's daughter, Lea Atacador, in her winning essay.

Elsa Lopez is the quintessential Filipina mother, the housewife whose domain is the kitchen. The house is her castle. If anything needs to be done, Elsa does it herself or else the job won't be as good. Never mind that she always has hired help around.

Apples said she was a lot like Elsa. "I'm obsessive-compulsive, too, although I always get someone do the chores for me," she explained, stifling a chuckle.

Until recently, Elsa would comb the wet market as early as 4:30 a.m. every day for the best catch and the freshest harvest for her family and for the canteen she operates near the Parañaque City Hall. But years of carrying kilos upon kilos of meat, fish, poultry, vegetable and grains have taken their toll on Lopez's hands, which are now stiff as board. Only then did she finally agree to do her morning rounds with the aid of an assistant.

Like most mothers, Elsa puts family first. She hates splurging on fashion in order to save up for her family's future. Ditto for eating out. In fact, Elsa says she rarely ever goes out. The last movie she watched, she confessed, was a Tagalog flick more than 10 years ago.

Not that Elsa is too frugal. Daughter Lea said when it came to their needs and wants, nothing was too expensive for her mother. And since Elsa looks after the needs of many, she has neglected one person and one person alone—herself.

Rewarding oneself

As part of the Inquirer pampering prize, Elsa was treated to massage, manicure and pedicure at the Marionnaud, SM Mall of Asia. She also handpicked for free a perfume of her choice, the sensual and woody Incanto by Salvatore Ferragamo.

Uneasy and apprehensive at first, Elsa slowly settled in over lunch at Gumbo. By afternoon, she was beaming, a picture of a woman having fun, with no less than a top model and fashion editor as her shopping buddy and fashion consultant.

The P7,500 clothing and accessories allowance rewarded to Elsa by Dorothy Perkins nearly sent her head reeling. She said the largest amount of money she had spent on herself was P2,000—and that was enough to complete her getup. Shoe shopping followed shortly at Schu.

"She's so game. I like it that she doesn't shy away from the summer colors," said Apples.

By mid-afternoon, everyone headed toward the Joya at the Rockwell for that final makeover at the Emphasis Salon (tel. 403-0117/0119).

The salon's upper-crust beaux monde appeal could have easily daunted Elsa had it not been for the warm and affectionate welcome from the salon manager herself, Margarita Olives.

"It is a pleasure to have Elsa Lopez here. This is such a lovely thing to do for your mother," the soft-spoken manager told Lea.

Drinks were promptly served, among them the salon's signature iced tea. Piping-hot brewed coffee was requested by the elated but nonetheless tired Elsa, who felt she had yet to digest the swirl of events.

Noting Elsa's graying crown, hair colorist expert Black Elago first had it repaired with one color before applying charming highlights that took off years from Elsa's face.

"The highlights create movement and add volume to her hair," Elago said.

Hair and makeup stylist Lourd Ramos, who will soon open his own school called the Academy of Beauty and Art, applied his magic formula on Elsa's face—makeup that seamlessly mimicked the original skin.

"Always choose a foundation closest to the skin tone of your face," Ramos said.

As luck would have it, Elsa also got a goody bag from Smashbox Cosmetics, whose director for international artistry and education, Daniel Chavez, just happened to be in town. Smashbox is the brand Ramos exclusively uses.

By evening Lopez had metamorphosed from simple housewife into bubbly, exciting lady of the house. Would she try to keep the look and not neglect herself again?

"I completely enjoyed this day. I love the way I look. I think I'll be giving myself a regular treat from now on," she said.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

MOTHERS' ACT. Elsa Lopez learns firsthand from the pro, model Apples, how to pose for the camera.

STEPPING UP. The lucky mother happily tries on shoes from Schu.

THREE'S A COMPANY. Lea, Elsa and Apples

SHOPPING SPREE. Elsa gets valuable fashion tips from Apples.

MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS. From left, Lea Lopez-Atacador with mom Elsa and Apples; Marina with Alyssa and Marilou Apuan

I LIKE, I WANT. Elsa finally decides on a shoe, from Schu.

"HINDI man s'ya nakapagtapos ng high school, maipagmamalaki ko s'ya dahil hindi n'ya ginawang hadlang ang hindi makatapos ng pag-aaral para hindi matuto sa buhay," wrote daughter Lea.

RUBY GAN, her son Ralph, Mommy Minnie and Michelle

SHOPPING FUN. Rifling through the racks of Dorothy Perkins

PERFECT Pair. Mommy Minnie and the shoes from Schu that she fell in love with

HER FRAGRANCE of choice? Davidoff's Echo

A CHANGE of clothes. Ruby Gan helps Mommy Minnie choose the perfect outfit.

Text by Pam Pastor
Daughter of Susan Salomon
Photos by Romy Homillada

MOTHERHOOD IS A great life-changing sacrifice.

And if you ask 23-year-old Michelle Miguel and her two sisters, Mary Rose, 19, and Mabel, 12, no one knows this more than their mother.

A prom queen when she was in high school, with long shiny hair and a 24-inch waistline, Romana "Minnie" Miguel loved clothes and matching shoes. She also had a penchant for open-toe sandals, so she could show off her fresh nail polish, which always matched her dress.

But all that changed when she settled down to become a wife and a mother. Michelle wrote, "Her priorities changed from taking care of herself to taking care of us."

When Michelle was 10 years old, her father became half-paralyzed. Mommy Minnie had to step up and play the role of the breadwinner, working as a teacher in a daycare center where kids adored her, tutoring students after hours, and selling on the side *puto, bibingka* and *pancit palabok*.

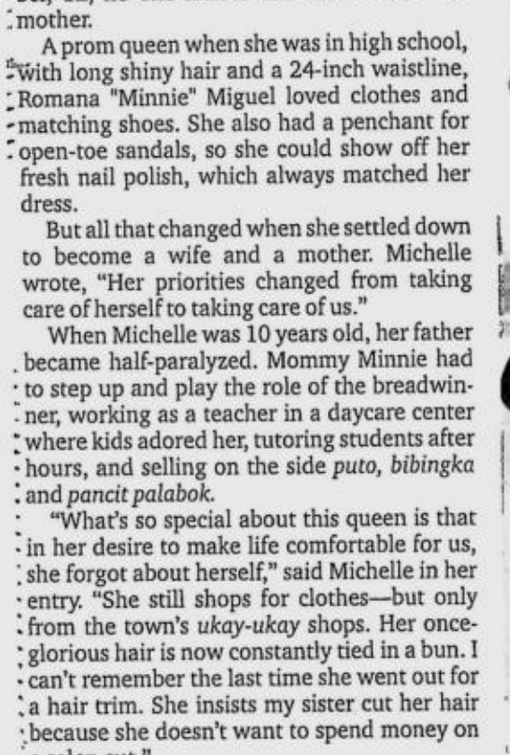
"What's so special about this queen is that in her desire to make life comfortable for us, she forgot about herself," said Michelle in her entry. "She still shops for clothes—but only from the town's *ukay-ukay* shops. Her once-glorious hair is now constantly tied in a bun. I can't remember the last time she went out for a hair trim. She insists my sister cut her hair because she doesn't want to spend money on a salon cut."

Once, when a shampoo company and salon came up with a promo to give free rebonding to people who could collect a number of sachets, Michelle, Mary Rose and Mabel hoarded them like crazy but failed to reach the target for their mom.

"We know every woman secretly wishes to be treated like a queen," said Michelle. "Please choose her and make this Mother's Day the happiest for us. She is truly deserving of nothing less than the royal treatment."

Royal mom

And that's exactly what Mommy Minnie got.



LEAVING Highlands China Palace

SHOPGIRLS. Ruby Gan, Mommy Minnie and their many shopping bags

Although Michelle was stuck at work on the day of the makeover and Mommy Minnie's sister Lina was the one who accompanied her, Michelle might as well have been there—she kept in constant touch with her mom through texts.

We also received a text from Michelle, telling us to enjoy. "My mom is a lot of fun to be with," she added.

Mommy Minnie's day started early; she traveled all the way from Bulacan to the Mall of Asia where the makeover would take place. The first stop was Marionnaud where she was treated to the Marionnaud Signature Massage at the Marionnaud Spa and a manicure and pedicure at Marionnaud's Nail Bar.

She came out of the massage room smiling, her face glowing. "I feel relaxed," she said.

Marionnaud had an extra surprise for her: a voucher for another free manicure and her choice from six fragrances. She went for Davidoff's Echo for women.

At Marionnaud, Mommy Minnie met Ruby Gan, another woman who wears many

MOMMY Minnie enjoys the Chinese food feast.

A SURPRISE gift from Marionnaud

'In her desire to make life comfortable for us, she forgot about herself,' 23-year-old INQUIRER reader Michelle Miguel says about her mother. So Lifestyle treats Mommy Minnie to some pampering

hats—mother, entrepreneur, style setter (she was part of Preview's Best-Dressed last year), even power lifter.

"She's superwoman," Ruby's younger son Ralph, who also joined the group that day, said. Ruby was there for some mommy-bonding and to give Mommy Minnie her makeover.

From Marionnaud the group went to Highlands China Palace where Mommy Minnie enjoyed a Chinese food feast. There was a whole spread of goodies including pata tim, spring rolls, dimsum, noodles, fried chicken and more.

Over lunch, the moms talked about pregnancy, about feeding babies, about the joys of having children.

Raiding the racks

After lunch, Ruby and Mommy Minnie raided the racks of Dorothy Perkins to give Mommy Minnie a wardrobe update. Although they have very different tastes when it comes to fashion (Mommy Minnie was a bit conservative while Ruby liked unique and cutting-edge pieces), they managed to compromise and choose finds they both loved.

After clocking in fitting room time, they settled on a pair of jeans, a pretty green and white satin top, a white long-sleeved shirt, gray slacks, a gray belt, a silver bag and a silver necklace.

"I chose a classic look for her. You can never go wrong with a crisp white shirt," said Ruby of the outfits she picked for Mommy Minnie. "Then I added funky touches of the season's it colors—gray and silver."

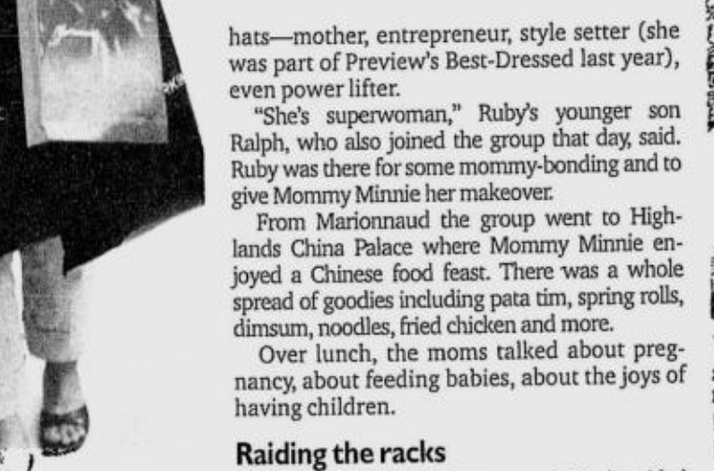
Next item on the agenda? Shoes, of course!

The group headed for Schu, which is owned by Ruby and her partners, in search of the perfect pair for Mommy Minnie.

Ruby chose a beautiful pair of high-heeled sandals that make the feet look really sexy and Mommy Minnie fell in love with it.

Hair and makeup

Mommy Minnie was extra-excited about



RUBY Gan raids the shelves of her shoe store Schu to find the perfect pair for Minnie.

PHOTO FINISH. Mommy Minnie's makeover

RUBY Gan searches for the perfect outfit in Dorothy Perkins.

hair and makeup. So the group made the journey from Mall of Asia to Glorietta 4 where Ruby took Mommy Minnie to her trusted salon—Henri Calayag's H Salon.

There, Nilo gave her a bob. Henri said, "Why a bob? Because it's one-length and it's easy to maintain."

Henri insisted that Mommy Minnie also have her eyebrows threaded by Marissa, to complete her new look. Henri, who acts like a beauty guru for many celebrities, said, "Time for yourself is very important. Pamper yourself. It doesn't have to be anything expensive, as long as it makes you feel good."

Ruby nodded in agreement, "Love yourself. It's not being selfish."

At H Salon, Mommy Minnie changed into her new clothes and her walk was injected with a dose of extra-confidence.

The last stop was YSL's booth where brand manager Trish Chua had arranged for makeup artist Lani to do Mommy Minnie's makeup. While she was getting her face done, Michelle arrived, straight from her day at work.

She watched, beaming, as her mom enjoyed the pampering.

Michelle wrote, "It is through my mom's many sacrifices that we are inspired to work hard for the achievement of our dreams. And it is in her guidance that our family has remained intact. What we want the world to know is that though my mom may no longer look like a beauty queen, in our eyes she remains magnificent and in our hearts she reigns supreme."

With her new outfit, her perfectly made up face and shiny new bob, she did look like a beauty queen to us.

At the end of the long day, Mommy Minnie said, her eyes shining, "Thank you. I'm very, very happy."

And happiness is exactly what this special mom deserves.

Watching mom

FLOWERS for mama come in a set of watch, diary and ballpoint pen

THIS YEAR, SWATCH GIVES Mother's Day a heartwarming special touch with a matched set consisting of a watch, diary and ballpoint pen.

My Beloved Mom, a decorative Swatch Lady Plastic has a strap in translucent plastic, pearl-white background with rose blossoms and leaves in rose, pink and green. The watch case is in translucent plastic with white dial. The watch has Arabic numerals from 1-12; prominent 3, 6, 9 and 12 numerals (larger than the others); white filigree seconds hand, pink hour and minute hands.

The accompanying diary/photo album contains more than 50 pages. It comes with a sheet of adhesive corners for use as a photo album too.

The watch, album and a metal eggshell-colored ballpoint pen bearing the image of a rose blossom and the swatch logo are supplied in a white presentation case in nylon lattice fabric with a zip fastener.

Other Swatch watches that may also interest Mom are:

Classic Brown—a classic Lady Lady with a croc-pattern strap the color of cognac, with polished gold-colored hollow links and lugs in stainless steel. The solid steel polished golden case has a shining golden bezel with square indices etched on the surface.

Ecailles d'Argent—The shining steel of the bracelet forms a scaly silver skin holding the clear plastic case of this original Square. Framed within the plastic case is a dial with a wavelike silver surface set with transparent crystals.

Fancy Me—Ice-cold crystals and a snowy white ribbon give a shiver of pleasure. The white rubber strap ends in stainless steel set with 12 transparent crystals on either side of the polished steel case of this Irony Medium.

Swatch is exclusively distributed by Gift Gate and is available at Swatch stores and kiosks in major malls.

FANCY Me is a shriver of pleasure

FOR THE sweetest woman in the world: My Beloved Mom Swatch Lady Plastic watch in pearl white wutg rise blossoms and leaves

CROC-STRAP make the Classic Brown Swatch a classic

For mothers who like to read

The Power of a Positive Mom

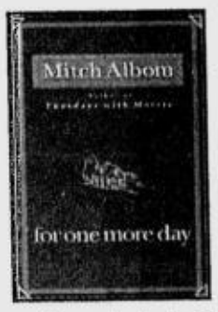
By Karol Ladd

The Power of a Positive Mom offers seven time-tested principles from the trenches of motherhood. You'll learn the power of your words and how to use them positively. You'll learn how to pray life-changing prayers for your children. You'll learn how to grow an attitude of gratitude in your children—and so much more! An excellent resource for stay-at-home and working moms alike, this book will help you become the mom you've always wanted to be—positively!

Songs of the Humpback Whale

By Jodi Picoult

In this beautiful, poignant novel, bestselling author Jodi Picoult portrays an emotionally charged marriage that changes course in one explosive moment. For years, Jane Jones has lived in the shadow of her husband, renowned San Diego oceanographer Oliver Jones. But during an escalating argument, Jane turns on him with an alarming volatility. In anger and fear Jane leaves with their teenage daughter, Rebecca, for a cross-country odyssey chartered by letters from her brother Joley, guiding them to his Massachusetts apple farm, where surprising self-discoveries await. Now Oliver, an expert at tracking humpback whales across vast oceans, will search for her wide across a continent and find a new way to see the world, his family, and himself: through her eyes.



For One More Day

By Mitch Albom

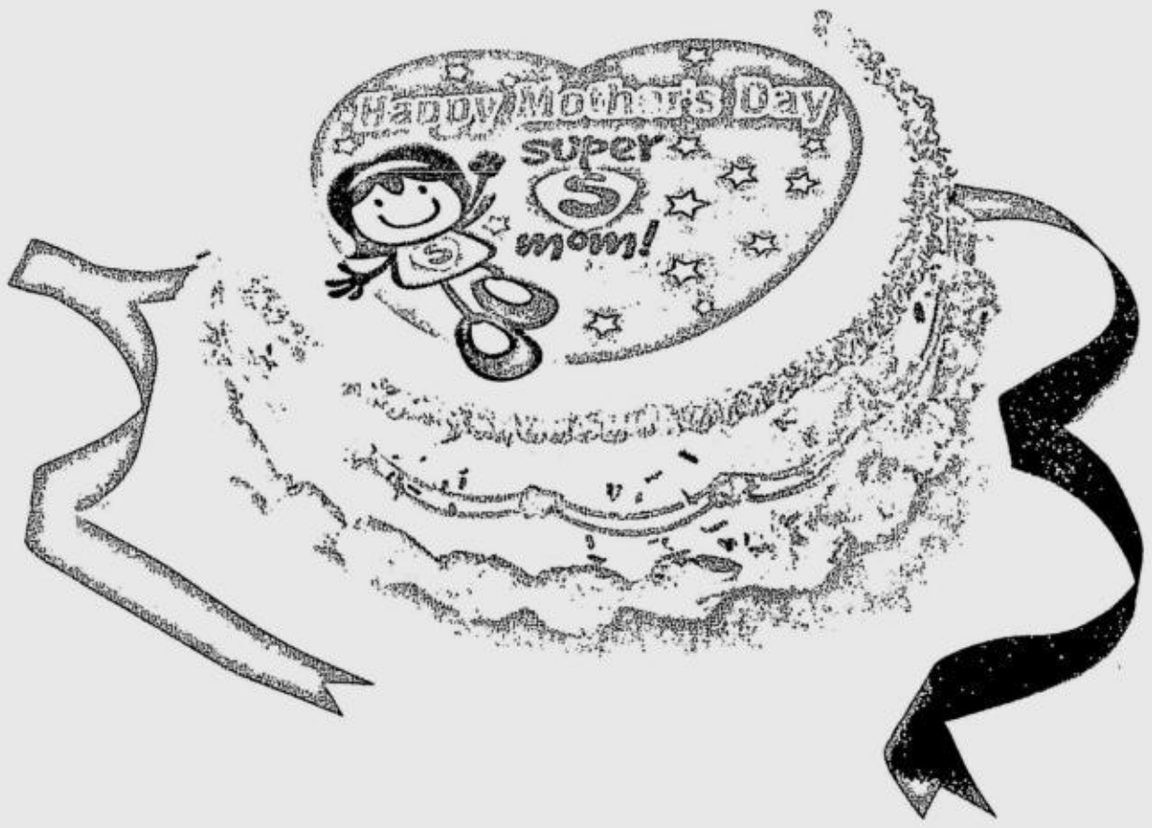
This is the story of Charley, a child of divorce who is always forced to choose between his mother and his father. He grows into a man and starts a family of his own. But one fateful weekend, he leaves his mother to secretly be with his father and she dies while he is gone. This haunts him for years. It leads him to depression and drunkenness. One night, he decides to take his life. But somewhere between this world and the next, he encounters his mother again, in their hometown, and gets to spend one last day with her—the day he missed and always wished he'd had. By the end of this magical day, Charley discovers how little he really knew about his mother, the secret of how her love saved their family, and how deeply he wants the second chance to save his own.

Hugs for Mom

By John William Smith

Moms are usually the ones who give the hugs—hugs of encouragement, hugs of acceptance, hugs of forgiveness, and hugs of shared joy. This little book is a way to give some of the hugs back to Mom—hugs of love, thankfulness, devotion, and respect. The pages of this very special book are filled with hug after hug that expresses your warmest feelings and appreciation for Mom. Each portion of this collection is chosen to encourage and inspire her and let her know how very important she is to your life.

You bring sweetness to Mother's day.



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MOMMY Charito gets mani-pedi at Marionnaud's nail bar; makeup and new 'do at Hairworks salon.

RADIANT MOM. Charito de la Cruz post-makeover

Generation to Generation

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Daughter of Teresita Vialu Moral
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

CHARITO DE LA CRUZ smiled knowingly as she listened to the accounts of the younger woman from across the table. Those were stories with which the 59-year-old mother of three girls was only too familiar.

SHOPPING at Dorothy Perkins in SM Mall of Asia with a personal stylist: no less than model and accessories designer Amina Aranaz-Alunan

"When I traveled in the past I would come home with two suitcases filled with stuff I shopped for myself," the young woman said. "This time I had a single plastic bag, everything else was for my son!"

Bag designer and model Amina Aranaz-Alunan, 27, had just arrived from a two-week holiday in the United States with her family, including her 5½-month-old son Lucas. The first-time mom is only just beginning to untangle the kinks of that wonderfully knotty phenomenon called motherhood, and her lovely eyes lit up as she talked of her discoveries.

"My mom also loved to shop designer things when she was single," said Marielle de la Cruz, 22, Charito's eldest daughter. "She traveled the world. But when she had us..."

"Your priorities change when you have a family," Charito continued. A mother's personal needs become whims and cease to matter; the children's welfare takes precedence.

For Charito, it was all about assuring her kids got the best—yes, even expensive—education. This seemed natural given her background. A UP alumna with Master's degrees in Education and Family Life and Child Development, she is the directress of her own preschool, Kidschool, which founded in her own home for her youngest daughter, now an

STYLING/ D2

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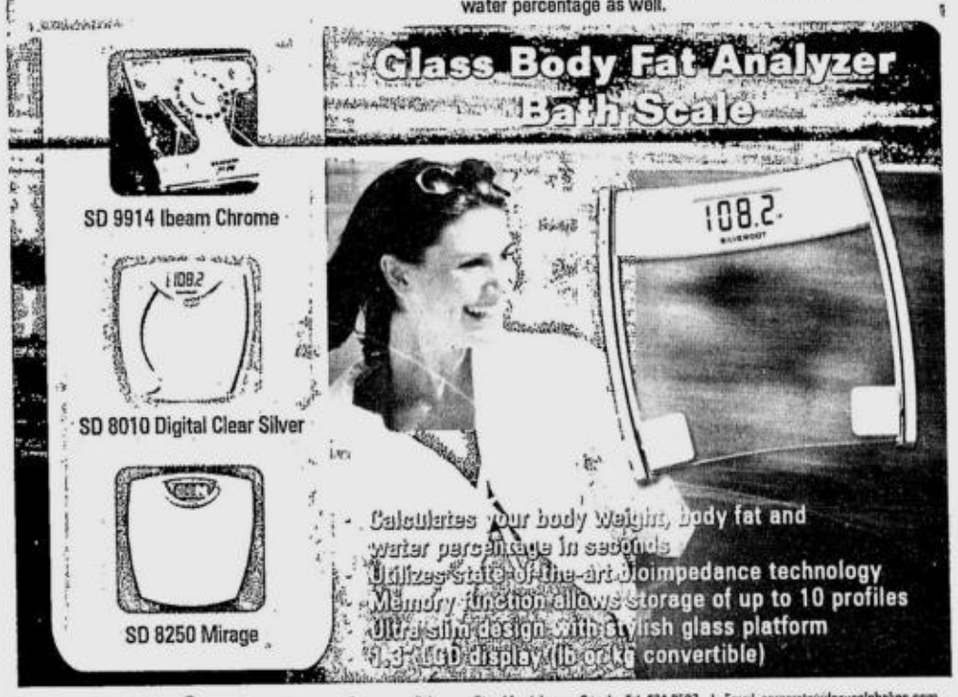

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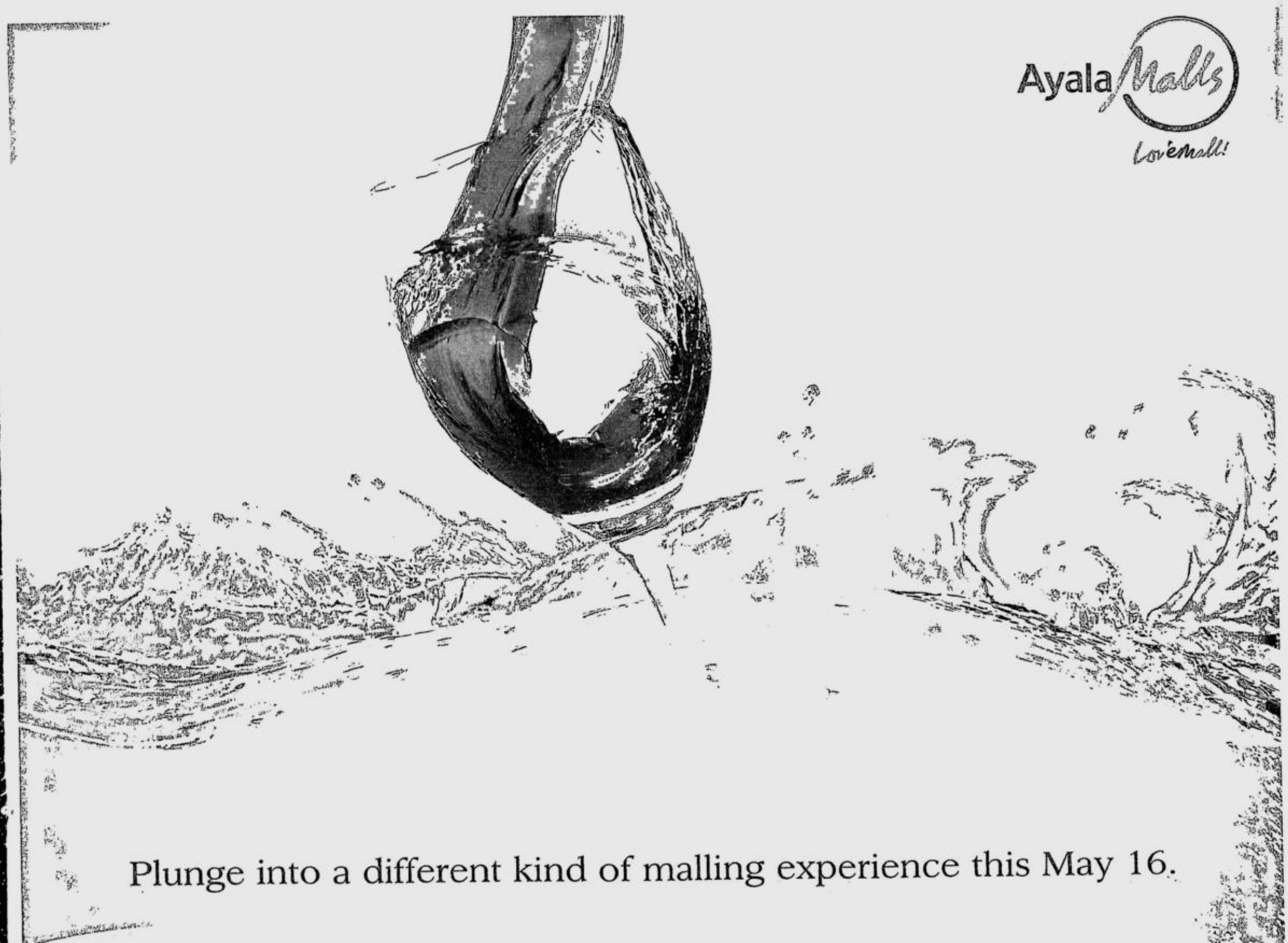
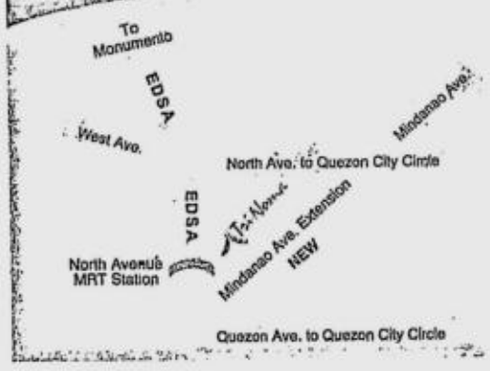
*Bodyfat Analyzer and Mirage initially available at Coleman Stores, Ruslan's, Anson's, S&R.



Plunge into a different kind of malling experience this May 16.



TriNoma, making a big splash at
EDSA corner North Avenue, Quezon City.

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TriNoma
Where all come together.

CHARITO and Amina share a laugh (left) as they go through Dorothy Perkins' racks.

MARIONNAUD'S Toni Abad hands over a complimentary bottle of fragrance.

WITH HAIRWORKS' beauty experts Jasmine Lisbona and Nelson Aguilar

Styling up mom

From page D1

incoming high-school senior at Poveda. Marielle, who majored in creative writing, recently graduated with honors from Ateneo de Manila. The second child is a merit scholar and incoming premed junior, also at the Ateneo.

"My kids are my pride and joy," Charito said. "They're good kids and good students. I always tell them their only job is to study."

And study the girls did—in the best schools at that, the very reason, Marielle said, her mom tended to scrimp on herself. "I'm done, but my two sisters are still in school... My mom gets stressed a lot, especially now that there are so many preschools in our area and she doesn't have as many students as before. She's thinking of applying for a teaching job in a college, when she's never had to apply for a job before; jobs sought her. She was an entrepreneur [Charito had a successful garment manufacturing business]. But she's 59 and she should be retiring... I rant at my mom, but I care about her a lot."

The young woman's winning essay began with an account of her mother's rather "embarrassing" dressing style "or lack of it." Charito admitted she only shops "when I really need something," which usually takes no more than 15 minutes, added her daughter, rolling her eyes skyward.

"I WANT to cry... I'm not very demonstrative, but I'm very touched [by what Marielle did]," Charito says, shown here enjoying her time shopping.

Break

Last Tuesday, Charito took a break—almost reluctantly—from her busy workday to get some pampering at Marionnaud in SM Mall of Asia. The day before she called up this writer to ask if she could be late for the spa treatment since she was teaching a class.

The massage treatment pushed through as scheduled, and Marielle assured us she could tell her mom was having a good time, gamely picking from a selection of scents provided by the fragrance and beauty store.

"SHE scrimps on every peso while I get to go out with friends and sip overpriced coffee," Marielle de la Cruz wrote of her mom.

"I like my nail polish," Charito said, showing off her freshly painted nails. "I wanted to buy the bottle so I could use it at home, but it was P600! I wouldn't spend that much!" (Ironically the next day, she persuaded her daughter to get a haircut that cost even more than the nail polish.)

Over a late-lunch feast at Highlands China Palace, Charito went on to share mommy notes with Amina, who incidentally attended the same schools as her daughters: "Give your baby only all-natural foods... Use cloth diapers..." In turn, the newbie mom and fashion expert helped Charito pick out outfits at Dorothy Perkins (and select pieces from Warehouse).

The older woman was sensible in her choices. She said she wanted pieces that she could wear at work, clothes of neutral colors—frills-free and practical, as can only be expected from someone who stresses that "every peso counts." She, however, acceded to her stylist's suggestion to pick a capacious bag in a bright shade of yellow to add punch to her outfit.

At Schu, gone was the woman who normally spends a mere few minutes shopping for footwear. Charito took her sweet time trying on the many pairs that caught her eye, listening to Schu owner Ruby Gan's suggestions.

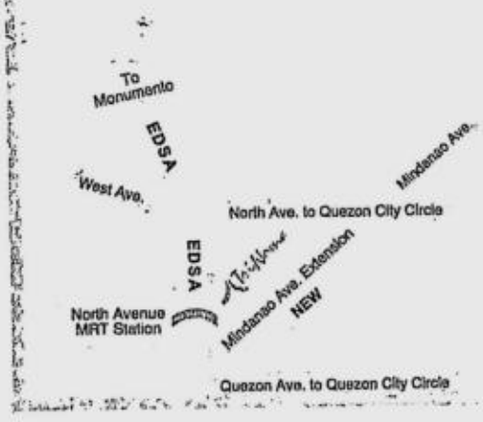
Charito looked several years younger even as she nervously faced the camera the next day. Gone were her gray hairs from the day before. In their place were golden highlights, courtesy of Jasmine Lisbona, creative director of Hairworks salon (G/F BSA Tower, 108 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati; tel. 888-4819) and Amina's choice stylist. It was Charito's first professional color, and she expressed her delight as Jasmine gave her pixie cut a trim. Her face looked radiant. "I don't think I can do this on my own," she said to compliment makeup artist Nelson Aguilar. With Jasmine's coaxing, Charito began to relax and hammed it up for the lens.

Through it all, it was clear who was having the most fun: Charito's daughter Marielle, who beamed as she watched her mother, at times coaching Mom to loosen up, to throw her head back, cheering her on. "You look like a CEO, Mom!"

Marielle wrote: "I can write, and I can dream bigger so I can be more and give more to a mom who may not be the coolest or hippest, but who definitely deserves more in life—only she chooses every day to live with stress and simplicity so that we her children could have better."

Ayala Malls
Lov'em all!

Plunge into a different kind of malling experience this May 16.



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TriNoma
Where all come together

MORE fashion tweaking from Amina

"[MY mom] managed to give us [a good life] but not without a lot of difficulty and more than self-giving, self-forgetfulness," Marielle wrote in her winning essay.

SHOP "girl" with daughter

PRUDENT heels—plus Foot Petals—for a practical mom.

Sensible as ever, she says she wants pieces that she could wear at work, clothes of neutral colors—frills-free and practical

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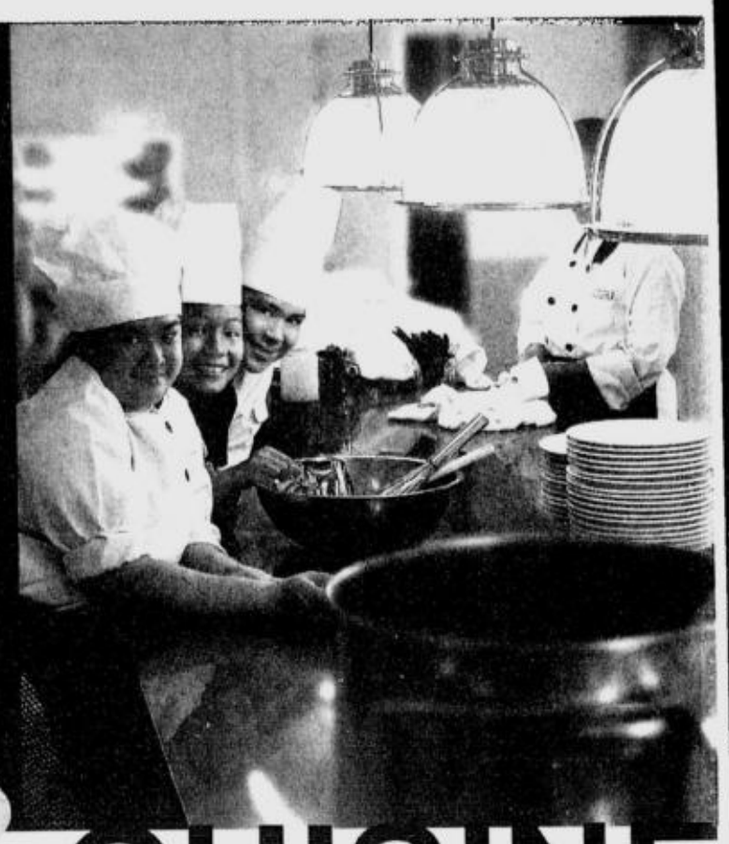

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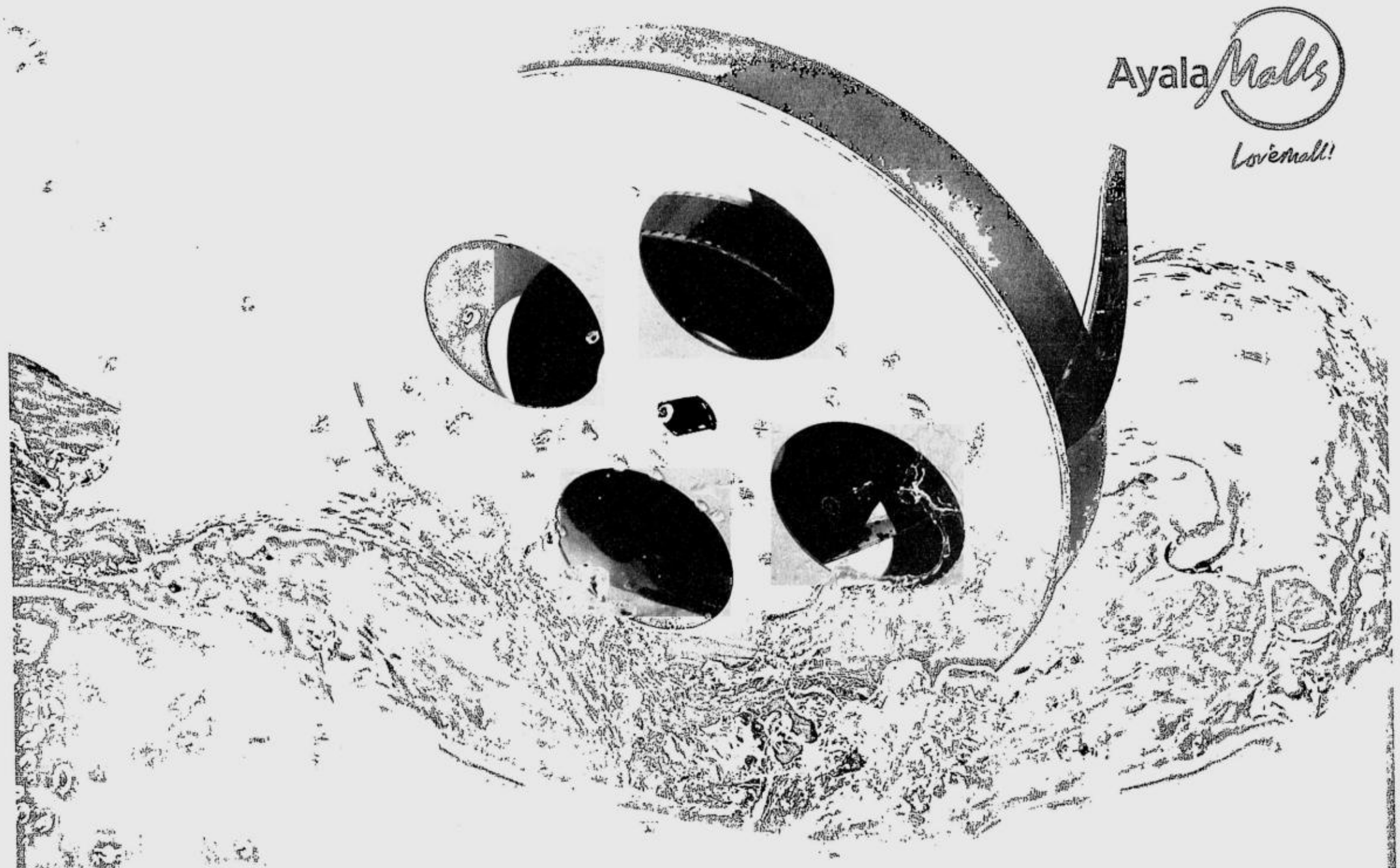
Love mall!



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TriNoma
Where all come together.

TriNoma Opens on May 16!

A refreshing mall experience highlights the summer season with the newest and first Ayala Mall in Northern Metro Manila. Merging the diverse tastes of Filipino shoppers, TriNoma offers a wide array of retail shops and boutiques blended with only the best in dining and entertainment.

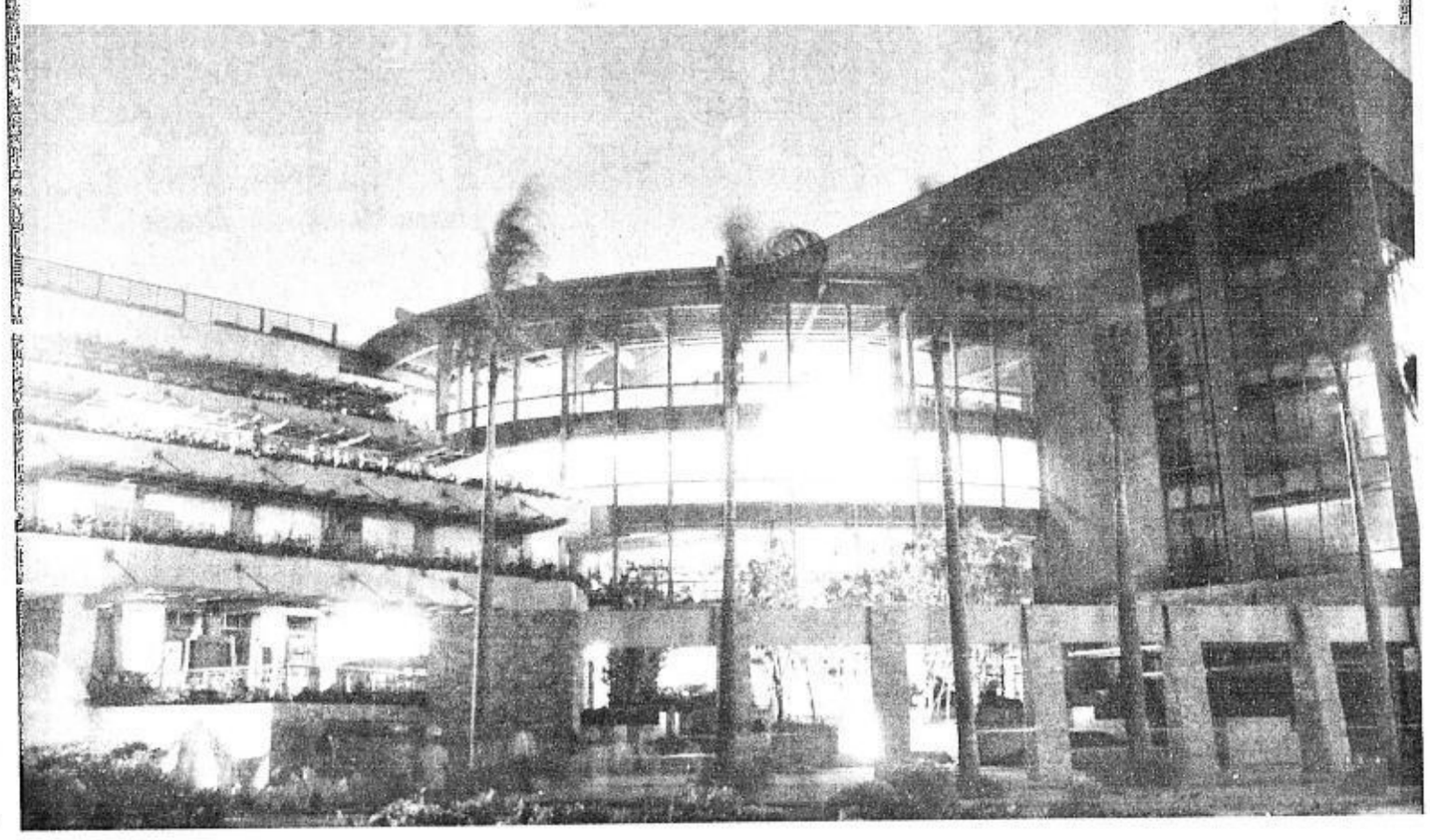
TriNoma will be home to well-loved brands that have always been sought elsewhere as well as new concepts and flagship stores that have been created with the Northern market in mind. It will have the Landmark Supermarket and Department store as its anchor , the store's second branch after 18 years of providing value-for-money shopping in Makati.

All these wonderful offerings at TriNoma are put together in one beautiful and incomparable retail environment. With its beautiful water features and landscaping, its themed zones and most strikingly, the one-hectare park that sits atop the mall, the unique mixture of design elements at TriNoma is truly something that is unsurpassed in Northern Manila. This new destination is an architectural wonder that has already redefined the Northern landscape, welcoming its guests and guaranteeing residents, students and people who work in the Northern area that they need not go farther away to enjoy all these outstanding features.

To make it more convenient to get to TriNoma, the mall is strategically linked to the North Avenue station of the MRT and will also have an inter-modal transportation terminal for almost all types of public mode of transport. It will also provide a 3,500-slot parking area designed to have access from all levels of the mall.

A mall preview was held last April 25, 2007 with Quezon City Mayor Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte in attendance. Ayala Land President Jaime Ayala led the recent preview and Ayala Malls Deputy Group Head Rowena Tomeldan along with TriNoma Board of Directors joined the event which was hosted by Daphne Osena. TriNoma President and Ayala Malls Deputy Group Head Rowena Tomeldan along with the TriNoma Board of Directors joined the event which was hosted by Daphne Oseña. A sumptuous lunch was served by top restos Crustasia, Fish & Co, Five Cows, Italianni's, Friday's, Terriyaki Boy, Cold Rock, Cabalen, Banana Leaf, and Abe.

As TriNoma opens its doors on May 16, it will feature events and activities that are sure treats for everyone. On opening day, TriNoma will be the stage for Side A and Maestro Ryan Cayabyab. On May 17 and 18, TriNoma brings to you a slew of bands and performers hosted by top music VJs. For May 19, kids will surely have fun with "Treats for Tykes" featuring fun science and magic shows, circus acts, kiddie workshops and games. On May 20, Skechers will launch its flagship store with a concert featuring MYMP, Christian Bautista and Rachel Ann Go. All these and more to come only at TriNoma, where all come together!



Ayala Malls
Love to mall!

Twin concert treats at TriNoma.

Watch Side A and Ryan Cayabyab plus other musical guests on TriNoma's opening day.

On May 16, come to TriNoma at EDSA corner North Ave.
and hear the resounding sounds of summer with your favorite artists:

LUNCH EVENT:
SIDE A
TriNoma Activity Center
12 noon

EVENING EVENT:
MUSIC WITH MAESTRO RYAN CAYABYAB
With Agot Isidro, Rachel Alejandro,
Gian Magdangal, and Jan Nieto.
TriNoma Park, 4th Level
7pm

*Seats for both shows are on a first-come, first-served basis.

TriNoma
Where all come together.

A MASSEUSE soothes Marilou Apuan's tired muscles with Marionnaud's signature massage.

FOR the first time in decades, a fellow beautician from Marionnaud does Marilou's nails.

THE little lady goes for beige Lise Watier nail polish.

AT BENCH Fix, getting blond highlights can be so much fun.

AFTER working on Marilou's hair, Jun Macabanti of Bench Fix works on her makeup, focusing more on the eyes. Above, the transformation's almost done!

From beautician to beneficiary

"In the 18 years she's been a beautician, she hasn't had a day off," wrote Alyssa Lois Apuan of her mom Marilou

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Son of Gilda Yatco Vergara
Photos by Rudy Esperas

WHO DOESN'T WANT TO treat Mama to a day of shopping and pampering? To spend a leisurely lunch with her before going through dozens upon dozens of clothes and shoes in search of the perfect outfit?

Alyssa Lois Apuan had been dreaming to see her mom Marilou experience such a well-deserved break. In fact, the 11-year-old grade-schooler from Pampanga even thought of writing to "Day Off," a TV show hosted by Carmina Villaroel that specializes in mommy makeovers.

"I wasn't fast enough to catch the show's address and phone numbers," said Alyssa in Filipino. "Then I came across a Mother's Day announcement in Sunday Lifestyle. It was what I'd been looking for!"

Alyssa's dream finally came true when her e-mail (which she wrote at an Internet café near her school) was one of four entries we picked. Her wish was far from unique, but what made it poignant was the fact that Marilou, 43, is also in the beauty and pampering biz.

As a self-employed beautician attending to several customers at the same time, Marilou hardly has enough time for herself. She owns a hole-in-the-wall parlor called Lhou's Beauty Care on the ground floor of the family's rented house in Mabalacat.

Marilou even spends Sundays and holidays, with the exception of Christmas, New Year's Day and Good Friday, attending to the needs of her loyal but exacting customers.

"I have to work to help my husband make ends meet," she said in Filipino. Her husband is an electrician. "Part of the family's budget is also spent on milk for my eldest daughter's baby girl. Yes, I'm now a grandmother!"

Since demand is erratic (there are days when she barely nets P100), Marilou has purposely kept her salon small and the service "personalized." She only has one assistant to help her attend to all her customers.

The irony wasn't lost on little Alyssa, who once overheard her mom talk to one of her patrons: "*Sana matikman ko rin magpa*-parlor, *pa*-facial *at pa*-back scrub." ("I wish I could also go to a parlor to have a facial and back scrub.")

"In the 18 years she's been a beautician, she hasn't had a day off," wrote Alyssa in Filipino. "My Mama cuts and colors her own hair. Since she's so busy attending to us and her customers, she hardly has time for herself."

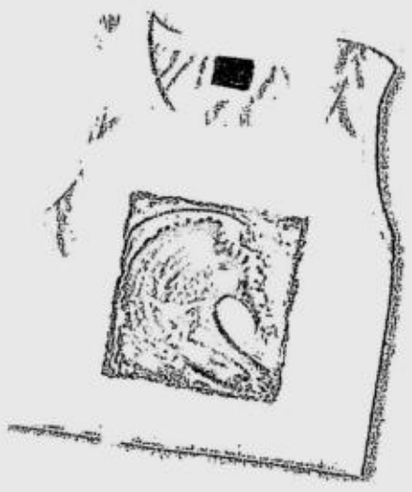
Rather than buy clothes to make herself look presentable, Marilou makes do with shabby house dresses to save money. Thus, to Alyssa's impressionable eyes, her mom sometimes ends up looking like a maid in her own

FROM BEAUTICIAN/ E2

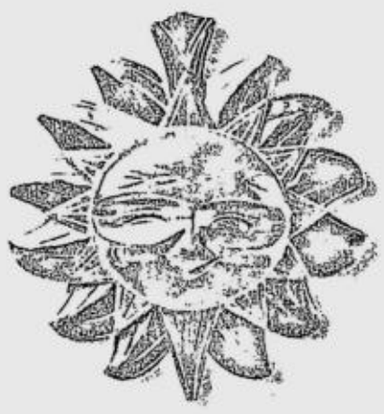
THE new and improved Marilou Apuan

SMART Buddy

SEA



SUN



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*Subject for bank's approval. See flyers for details.

NOKIA

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DAHIL SMART TAYO

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1982. Series of 2007.

TONI Abad of Marionnaud gives Marilou a gift pack of various fragrances.

MOTHER and daughter help themselves with one of Gumbo's signature desserts.

MARINA and Marilou agree on a red hand bag, which instantly gives some punch to the makeover mom's neutral ensemble.

From beautician to beauty

From page E1

beauty parlor.

"My heart goes out to my Mama," Alyssa wrote, "I just want to give her some joy."

Like old friends

Even seasoned model Marina Benipayo, who acted as Marilou's partner mom, was touched by Alyssa's story.

It didn't take long for the amiable Marina to bond with the Apuans, specially with fellow mom Marilou. The two women were already holding hands and chatting like old friends even before lunch was served.

Marina drove all the way from Angeles, also in Pampanga—her adopted home—to spend the day with the Apuans at SM Mall of Asia and later at Bench Fix Salon in Greenbelt 3.

Marilou's day began at Marionnaud, where she was pampered with the signature massage and manicure. She also received a bottle of designer fragrance. Marina joined them for lunch at Gumbo.

Situated at the back of SM MOA, the family restaurant specializes in New Orleans soul food, including its famous jambalaya, and offers diners a scenic view of Manila Bay.

Then it was off to Dorothy Perkins, where Marilou bought a number of separates, including a red hand bag, necklace, metallic wallet and several pairs of earrings. The hoop earrings went to Marilou, while the dangling pair went to Alyssa.

Marilou also preferred white and green tops over figure-flattering black ones. In lieu of faded blue jeans, Marina convinced her to get a pair of cropped cotton pants in beige, which she paired with a tailored beige cotton jacket worn over a soft, white trapeze blouse.

"She was a bit practical in her choice, which was quite understandable," said Marina, who also acted as her fashion adviser. "But I told her that she had to strike a balance between practical and striking since this is a makeover."

Marilou's wardrobe choices were quite limited as well since she's quite small and bosomy. She and Marina had to go through racks upon racks of pants and blouses before getting the right ensemble.

It was also interesting to see the dynamics between mother and daughter. As soon as Marilou got her hands on something she liked, she showed it to Alyssa who either smiled and nodded with approval or looked at the seemingly offending piece with a hint of disdain before giving the final verdict: "*matsura*!" ("ugly" in Kapampangan).

Marina also chose several open-toed shoes at Schu to go with Marilou's clothes. A pair of printed espadrille wedges caught the makeover mom's eyes.

CELEBRITY mom Marina Benipayo and Marilou sample the beauty products available at Marionnaud.

MARILOU and Alyssa break bread with their new-found friend Marina at Gumbo.

Flattering highlights

In fairness to Marilou, she didn't let her profession get the better of her while at Bench Fix. She simply followed what stylist Jun Macabanti and his team wanted for her. In lieu of getting a full hair color, she settled for more flattering blond highlights.

"I have only one request," she told the stylists. "Please don't snip off my bangs. If you do, I have nothing to hide my wrinkly forehead with."

Marina noticed it as well. Every time Jun touched her precious bangs, Marilou seemed a bit uneasy in her chair. The hairdresser did as he was told, and promptly chopped off inches of Marilou's straight, henna-enhanced hair without touching the front part. He also did Marina's makeup, which emphasized her eyes.

"Her big, striking eyes are the first things you notice about her," said Marina.

By the time the makeover was over, Marilou was a bit reluctant to pose, but at the same time eager to see the "finished product." When the photographer showed images of her on his digicam, she broke into a wide smile and exclaimed: "Oh my, I'm so beautiful!"

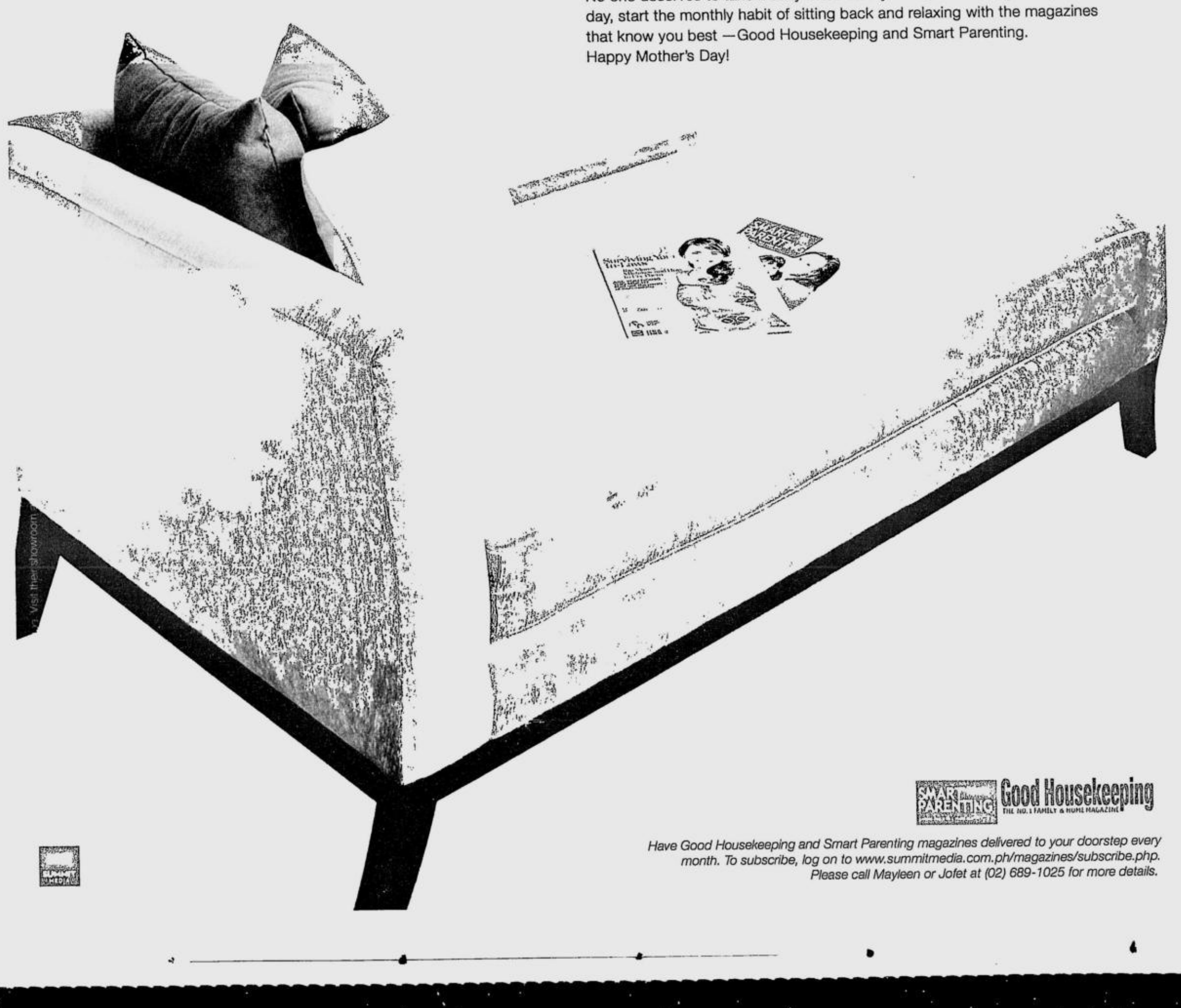
Alyssa, who's also blessed with a luminous pair of eyes that reveals her intelligence, chose to remain quiet. Although she didn't utter a word, her smile said it all: Mission accomplished!

SEEING green. Marina hands Marilou a green sleeveless blouse for her to try on. She later settles for a white trapeze blouse.

IN OR OUT. Whatever Marina and Marilou choose at Dorothy Perkins has to get little Alyssa's approval, whose verdict is either *matsura* (ugly) or *malagu* (beautiful).

Take it easy, for a change.

No one deserves to take it easy more than you do, Mom. On your special day, start the monthly habit of sitting back and relaxing with the magazines that know you best —Good Housekeeping and Smart Parenting.
Happy Mother's Day!



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Liwanag ng buhay.

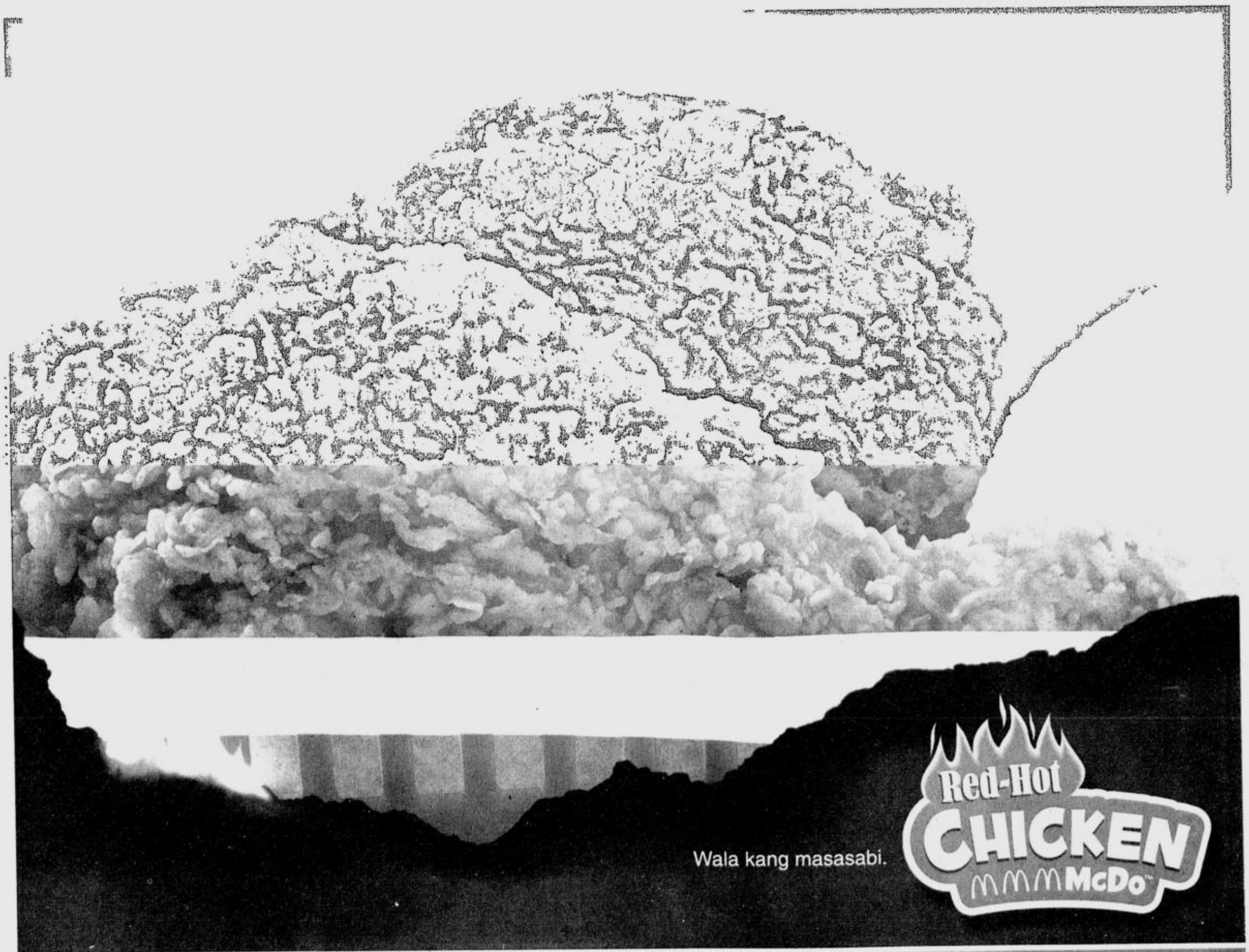
Dahil sa inyo,

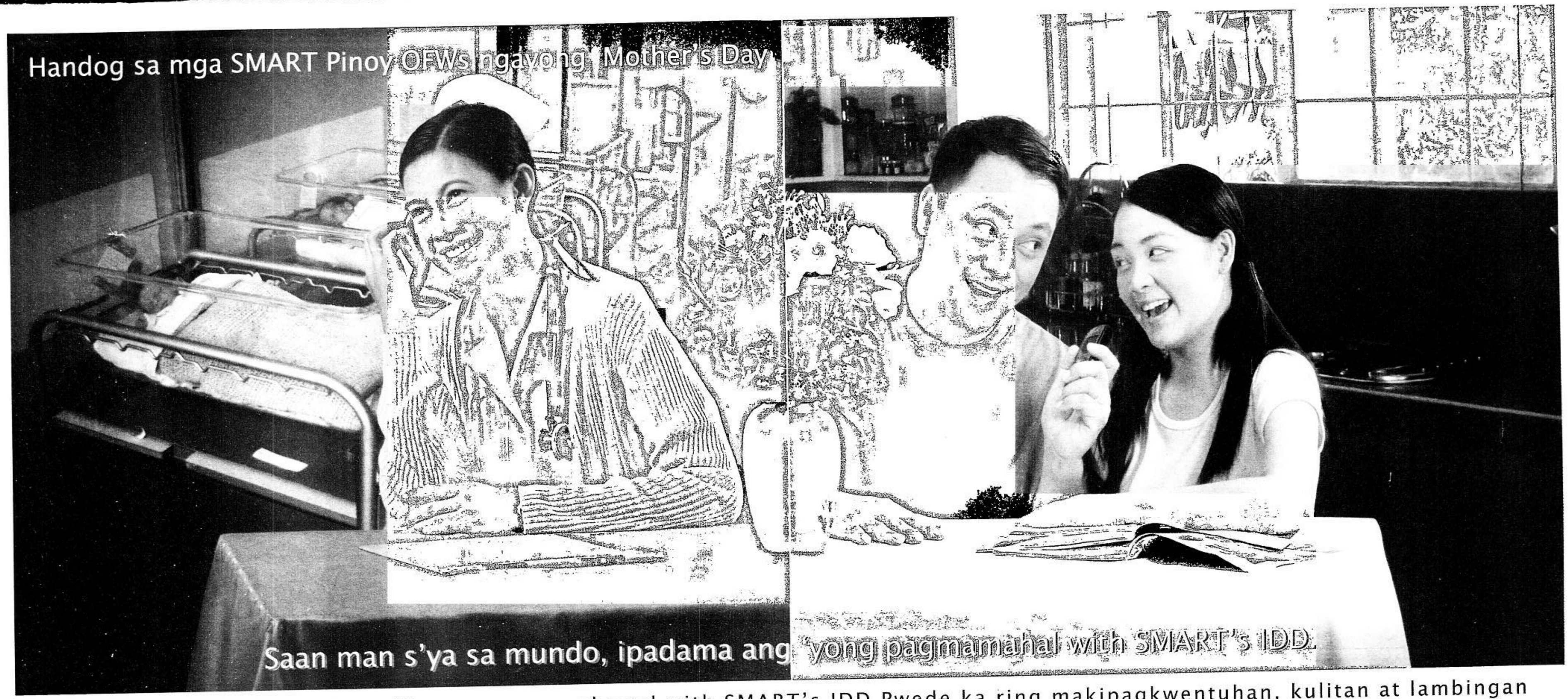
nakikita namin ang kinabukasan.

Maraming salamat sa inyo,

at isang maligayang araw ng mga ina.

MERALCO *may liwanag ang buhay*





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How to send an International MMS
To create an MMS message, insert picture and text message then send to
+ • country code • mobile code • mobile number

How to activate MMS service
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How to request for GPRS Settings
Send **SET GPRS <phone model>** to **211**.
Ex: SET GPRS N6680

How to make an International 3G Video Call
Dial: + • country code • mobile code • mobile number
Choose "Video Call" in Calling Options

Reminder: Person to be called should have a 3G Phone and should be in a 3G area.

How to make an International Voice Text
1. To Send:
*8900 • country code • area code • phone number
Example: Dial *8900966509244444
2. To Retrieve: Call the retrieval code reflected in the SMS alert or dial
*9900 • country code • area code • phone number
Example: Dial *9900966509244444
3. To Reply: Press '1' upon message retrieval then follow the voice prompt.

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Becoming our mothers

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GROWING UP UNDER THE SHADOW OF A celebrity mother has its ups and downs.

I suppose childhood, when one's mother is a famous actress, becomes much easier when lived away from the glare of the klieg lights. So my show-biz mom shielded me from the trappings of show biz when I was growing up in the '70s.

My mother and I do not look alike at all. I am often introduced as "the daughter of..." A joke I like to play with people I meet for the first time is, I let the introductory statement hang and say, "Wait, don't tell them, let them guess." I often give them three chances to guess who my mommy is and 90 percent of the time they are unable to name Mommy unless I give them very obvious clues. Mommy always gets a kick every time I tell her who my latest "mom" is.

However, now that I'm in my 40s, I have realized that no matter how much I tried to avoid becoming my mother in my younger, angst-ridden years, I have, without a doubt, become my mother. (I can see my mother grinning as she reads this.)

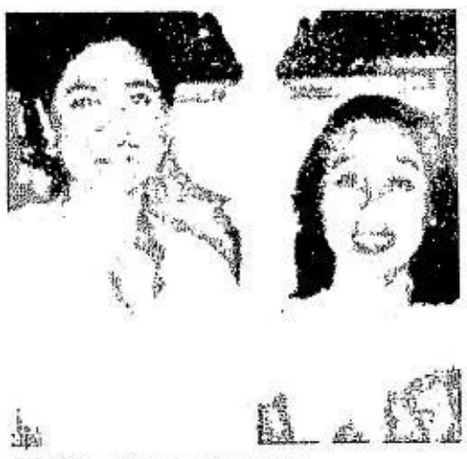
Our mothers are our role models and the women we eventually become. Their behaviors and mothering styles during our growing-up years set the pattern that determines the way we ourselves become mothers, to a certain degree. Unless you had a terribly dysfunctional childhood, you often become the same type of nurturer that your mother is. Your values, the way you relate to others, how you cope with life's challenges—the small and big things that remind you of Mom truly become a part of you later on.

My good friend and college batchmate Alya Honasan says that her mom, Alice Ballesteros Honasan, role-modeled for her and showed how she should bear life's trials with grace and dignity. "I used to wallow in my problems, but seeing my mom get up and cook after just learning of her son's death has made me aspire for such strength." Honasan, who is also known for her wit, says she and her mother are the best of friends and share the same wry sense of humor.

Swimming champion Akiko Thompson says she and her mom Hiroko share many of the same quirks and mannerisms. "For starters, I eat like a rabbit all the time now. I close my eyes when I am in deep thought or listening, literally giving my ear when conversing. I prefer not to shampoo my hair every day and I put weird stuff like smelly aloe vera on my face. I'll be shocked if I start cutting my dog's hair soon!"

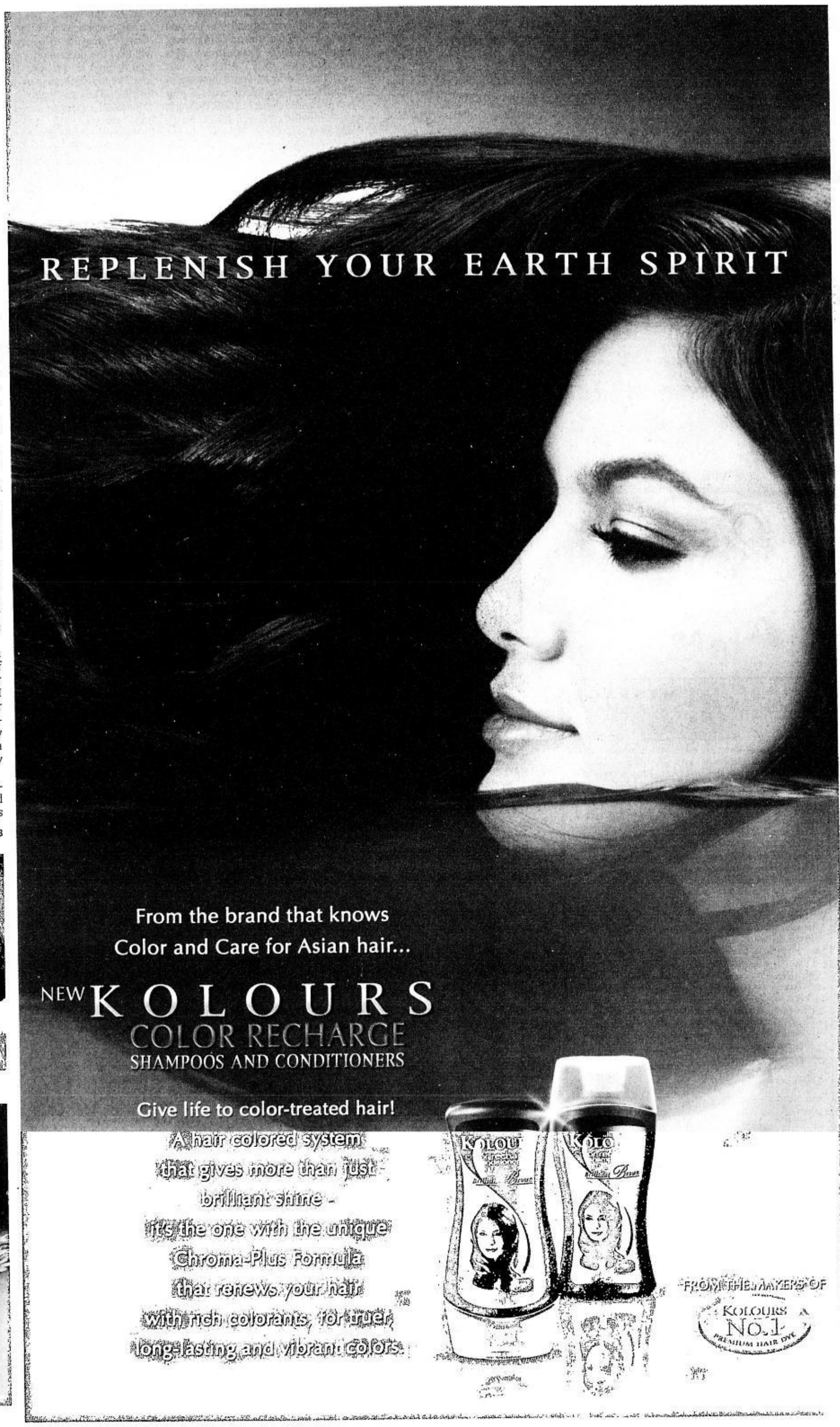
Nina Lim Yuson, who set up Museo Pambata with her mother, the well-loved and highly respected Estefania Aldaba Lim, says

BECOMING/ F3



AKIKO and Hiroko Thomson

ALYA and Alice Honasan



PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Darang, daughter of Lourdes Clemente Darang

Ilagan celebrates fiesta in newly restored church

PARISHIONERS OF ST. FERDINAND de Castille Church in Ilagan, Isabela will celebrate Novena Masses May 21-29 in preparation for the fiesta, May 30.

This year's fiesta is joyous, as the old church has been completely restored.

Architect Susan Castillo, known for her beautiful liturgical designs, did the restoration with the help of Rolando Malanon. Also involved were Albert Paloma, altar design; engineer Reynaldo Ramos, pre-cast work; engineer Noel Jose, civil engineering work; Teddy Hilado, lights; and Francisco Vecin, crucifix for the main altar.

In his book "Cagayan Valley and Eastern Cordilleras (1581-1898)," Fr. Pedro Salgado, O.P., said the church tower was of Spanish vintage and the church bell was dated 1786. He said the town of Bolo (Ilagan's old name), founded in 1619, was destroyed by a rebellion in 1621. After it was reestablished by Fr. Pedro Jimenez in 1678, Dominican missionaries put up a provincial chapter in 1686, calling it St. Ferdinand of Ilagan for St. Ferdinand of Castille. "Ilagan" means "transferred" in Ibanag, as the town was moved from its old place to where it is now.

Parish priest Fr. Roseller Lora will lead parishioners in reflecting on the different aspects of the faith, the fiesta theme. Msgr. Daniel Guiyab, parish priest and rector of Our Lady of the Visitation Shrine in Guibang, Isabela, will officiate at the fiesta Mass at 8:30 a.m., May 30.

Patroness of poor

The Blessed Virgin Mary, calling herself *La Vierge de les Pauvres* or The Virgin of the Poor, appeared to Mariette Beco in 1933 in Banneux, Belgium.

Her chapel in Banneux became known as Chapel of the Apparitions. A replica of the chapel will soon replace Our Lady of the Poor church in Tenement, Taguig City.

Sister Maria Arly B. Reyes, FMA of Mary Help of Christians, and Leonardo Murillo, vice president of the Parish Pastoral Council, prepared the architectural plans. This is a project of the diocese of Pasig headed by Bishop Francisco San Diego, parish priest Fr. Simplicio Roxas and guest priest Fr. Edgar Alan Pacete.

Helping in the project are the Christian Brotherhood for Church Progress led by lay minister Sid Valencia; Amadis Ma. Guerrero, who will write a coffee table book; trader Jett Reyes and Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes.

Ermita procession

For the fiesta of Nuestra Señora de Guia on May 19, Ermita Church will reenact the history of the image through a procession after the High Mass. A *babaylan* or pagan priestess will lead the procession, followed by men dressed as warriors. The image was already venerated by locals before the Spaniards came.

Sacristans carrying *ceriales* (three huge crosses) will symbolize the Christianization of the islands. Joining the procession are St. Andrew, patron saint of Manila; and St. Joseph, patron of the universal church, accompanied by merchant marines.

Sagalas, including the *Capitana* 2006 and *Capitana* 2007, and their escorts will also join the procession.

Palitada

The San Agustin Museum, in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and Instituto Cervantes, will hold a seminar-workshop on the church *palitada* May 17-18 at the San Agustin Plaza. *Palitada* refers to the surface of structures surrounding a church. Call 527-4060 or 527-4061.

Ordination

Nueva Caceres Archbishop Leonardo Legaspi will ordain five deacons at 8:30 a.m., May 18, at the Basilica Minore of the Nuestra Señora de Peñafrancia in Naga. They are Rev. Jay Aguilar, Rev. Fernando Catolico, Rev. Rex Ramos, Rev. Roldan Pordilla and Rev. Richie Colinares.

Three other deacons, Rev. Romeo Sotto, Rev. Vicencio Abinal and Rev. Francisco Parza III, will be ordained May 21. All deacons are theologians from the Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Major Seminary in Naga.

Mayohan sa Tayabas

Tayabas, Quezon celebrates bountiful harvest and flowers with the Mayohan sa Tayabas that ends May 15. The festival is a traditional thanksgiving in the town of San Isidro Labrador. Call (042)793-3756 or text 0920-9610320.

Misa Cantada

On the 25th anniversary of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Queen's Row, Bacoor, a *Misa Cantada* will be held at 6:30 a.m., May 20; and High Mass by Bishop Chito Tagle at 9 a.m. followed by *karakol*. The recoronation of the Virgin by the team ministry of Frs. Tony Roxas, Manny Colmenar and Teody Andres will be at 6 p.m., May 19.

Parishioners of Queen's Row attended Masses inside a warehouse 25 years ago. The late restoration architect Felix Imperial designed the future church. The church was built on a lot donated by the Government Service Insurance System when Cesar Sariño was chair.

Rosary Bowl

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles and Holy Cross Family Ministries will hold a prayer rally for peace 6-9 p.m., May 19, in Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California. Gennie Jota, former director of Family Rosary Crusade in the Philippines who is now in California, is coordinating the event.

E-mail info@rosarybowl.org or call (800)874-0999 or (323)874-6633.

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MAY 18
10:00 am - 12:00 nn Opening Ceremonies with Mascot & Costume Parade
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm Star Shoot-Out Game / Cheezee Step Dance Contest hosted by Magnolia
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm QTV's Ka-Toque cooking Demo
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Fashion Show by Abbylyn
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm QTV's Ka-Toque cooking Demo
5:00 pm - 5:30 pm Star Shoot-Out Game / Cheezee Step Dance Contest hosted by Magnolia
5:30 pm - 6:00 pm Junior Inquirer Essay Writing Contest/ Quiz Bee
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm QTV's Ka-Toque cooking Demo

MAY 19
12:00 nn - 12:30 pm Star Shoot-Out Game / Cheezee Step Dance Contest hosted by Magnolia
12:30 pm - 1:00 pm Kino Kids Art
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Arts and Crafts Workshop
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Junior Inquirer Essay Writing Contest/ Quiz Bee
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm Star Shoot-Out Game / Cheezee Step Dance Contest hosted by Magnolia
3:30 pm - 4:00 pm Kino Kids Art
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Swimming for Beginners by WS Sports
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Do-it-Yourself Segment by Sweet Lilo hosted by Wenna Doesnt and Lucy Torres

MAY 20
10:00 am - 11:00 am E-Ali Dance Craze / Dress-Up Your Pancake Contest by Magnolia Pancake Plus
11:00 am - 11:30 am Star Shoot-Out Game / Cheezee Step Dance Contest hosted by Magnolia
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Alaska Power Camp
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Magnolia's My Mama Best Pembeon Recipe
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Mama Segment by Marilyn Reynes and Lani Mercado
6:30 pm - 7:00 pm Star Shoot Out Game / Cheezee Step Dance Contest hosted by Magnolia

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Celebrating Silver at POEA

25 Years of Bringing World-Class Workers and a World-Class Overseas Employment Program to the Global Stage

By Bing Kimpo

AT the intersection of EDSA and Ortigas in Metro Manila stands a testament to the talent and skill of the Filipino – the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).

For 25 years now, the POEA has stood as the über-manager of our country's overseas employment program, promoting the world-class Filipino worker in job sites abroad.

Today, globally, the Filipino employee is much sought-after and the POEAitself, much admired.

Though officially just a quarter of a century old, the POEA does trace its roots quite a bit further back, to the early 1900s, when the Americans first began recruiting Filipinos to work in the US as plantation hands, picking pineapples in Hawaii and apples in California. Decades later, in the aftermath of World War II, we were again needed – this time, to help with the reconstruction of the US allied territories. Filipinos seemed to take to overseas employment quite naturally then – as now – and perhaps not surprisingly so; after all, our forebears also traveled over seas and rivers to other islands in our archipelago, looking for the proverbial greener pastures.

The actual birth of the POEA though can be more directly attributed though to a confluence of events in the 1970s. Locally, unemployment hit hard. At the same time, the Middle East – particularly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – went on a building binge. Without work in the country, Filipinos packed their bags and went abroad to serve on construction crews. Seven decades after the first wave of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) – then known as Overseas Contract Workers (OCWs) – left our shores, the government of the Philippines decided to institutionalize overseas employment.

In 1974, the Labor Code was enacted, creating the Overseas Employment Development Board (OEDB), the Bureau of Employment Services (BES) and the National Seamen Board (NSB). On Labor Day, 1982, the POEA was created, merging the functions of the OEDB, the BES and the NSB.

The three-fold mandate of the POEA was very clear: employment facilitation; licensing and regulation; and worker's protection. Without a template to work on, the POEA nevertheless quite literally wrote the book on institutionalized overseas employment. Its achievements are now widespread and of significant impact.

POEA has the International Recognition of the Philippine Migration System as model of protection for Labor Sending Countries

Last year alone, the POEA posted record numbers: one million Filipinos deployed in 197 countries; the release of 2.2 million documents – equivalent to 8,175 processed documents a day – through the OFW One-Stop Processing Center; the closure of 12 placement firms, the arrest of 50 suspected illegal recruiters, and the issuance and implementation of 890 orders of reprimand, suspension, fines and cancellation of licenses against erring employment agencies; and the settlement of 4,621 cases brought to its attention. All these numbers represent noteworthy increases in performance, compared to those from 2005.

The figures reflect the sophistication of the organization. The POEA Quality Management System remains ISO 9001:2000 certified, and last year, it earned a rating of Very Satisfactory from Certification International Philippines. On the eve of its 25th anniversary, the POEA embarked on the full implementation of its electronic submission and receipt systems, cutting down the processing of contracts to 5 minutes each, from its previous counter-based rate of 4 hours.

The success of the POEA no doubt redounds to the reinforcement of the resurgent Philippine economy. Already, the POEA is one of the government's top revenue-generating agencies, earning P360.38 million last year to surpass its own projections by 3% and to exceed its allotted budget by 60%. More importantly, the remittances received by the families of OFWs in 2006 amounted to US$12.76 billion – an inflow of funds that now props up industries from retail to real estate.

On its 25th year, the POEA itself is now upheld as a global standard, a model for economies around the world that similarly aspire to reap the benefits of sharing its workforce with its neighbors in the global village. Its staff are perpetually sought out for conferences and consultations on overseas employment and migration.

When the POEA was born, all the world wanted was the Filipino worker. Today, other countries aspire to learn from – and emulate – the über-manager behind the promotion, processing and protection of that same worker – the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

MESSAGE

I am very pleased to greet the management and staff of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, one of the lead agencies of the Department of Labor and Employment, on the celebration of their 25th Year Anniversary. As a member of the DOLE family, the POEA has shown remarkable performance in its avowed tasks.

The theme of the celebration, "25 Years of Dedicated Service to the World's Best Workers," is truly appropriate for an agency whose continuing fervor and professionalism in managing the country's overseas employment program that catalyzes poverty alleviation, is beyond question. Ever dynamic in its approaches, the agency's strategic programs and activities reflect the road map and directions it shall pursue in the coming years to enable Filipino labor to compete in the ever-expanding and highly competitive global labor marker.

We congratulate the POEA for sustaining its passion and vigor in managing an international program that has been recognized as a model for other labor-sending economies in the region, and also for maintaining its place as one of the vibrant institutions in the entire bureaucracy that makes a significant difference in the lives of our overseas Filipino workers, their families, and the nation as a whole.

Maligayang Bati!

ARTURO D. BRION
SECRETARY
Department of Labor and Employment

MESSAGE

As the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration celebrates its 25th anniversary, we take pride of our accomplishments that are recognized not only in the domestic front but also in the international arena.

With the passion and dedication of its hard-working officers and staff spread all over the country, the POEA has found its niche as a leading government functionary, recognized both in the Philippines and around the globe. We have revolutionized the organization quietly over the years and we continue our march towards excellence in public governance. We are committed to keep the international mark of leadership in global management of labor migration.

We do not intend to rest on our laurels, though. We shall continue strengthening our linkages with our program stakeholders – the OFWs and their families, the private recruitment and manning sectors, other government agencies, the civil society, media and other institutional partners so we can work together harmoniously in managing efficiently and effec-tively our overseas employment program. We will continue to put together policies and programs that are more responsive to the needs of our overseas Filipino workers in a rapidly changing and highly competitive global labor market environment.

God Bless Us All!

ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ
Administrator
Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

Asialink Finance Corp. INQUIRER MANILA BULLETIN THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER Libre
POEATV KABAYAN HOTEL

DR. RAQUEL Fortun with her nanay

Now that I'm in my 40s, I have realized that no matter how much I tried to avoid becoming my mother in my younger, years, I have, without a doubt, become my mother

BOOTS Anson Roa with Pete and their children in the 1970s—Leah, Joey, Chiqui and Ben

Becoming our mothers

From page F1

her late mother was a liberated and progressive woman who was not afraid to question a lot of things. "I was a very shy child but learned to break through because I saw that from my mom. We are also both hardworking and persevering."

Interestingly, Lim-Yuson was also widowed in her 40s just like her mother before her, and she said that, at this lowest point in her life, it was the memory of how her own mother carried on after losing her dad that helped her pull through.

Forensic pathologist Raquel Fortun had the most devoted of mothers. She recalls how Mom, Amelia Luisa del Rosario Fortun, was a hands-on mom who would deliver (via tricycle and PUJ) "hot beef *sinigang*, rice, ice and *patis* with *kalamansi* for my lunch at St. Mary's College when I was in third grade, and dinner when I was on duty at UERM." Just like Mom, Fortun says she is "one who abhors *kalat* and is obsessive compulsive about keeping things in order."

Boots' daughter

One of my good friends while I was growing up was Leah Roa, the eldest daughter of actress Boots Anson-Roa. She was my classmate from first grade all the way to senior high. Like my mother, Boots, who was like the Sharon Cuneta of the '70s, made sure her children led very private lives.

Today, Leah makes her home in Virginia and works at one of the top universities there. She still gets asked by Filipinos in the US if she is Boots Anson-Roa's daughter or younger sister. Leah says that perhaps it is because of the striking resemblance. "Some people even say I sound like her. I see and hear a lot of Mom in me when I interact with others, especially with my kids. I end up thinking to myself, did I just say what my mom used to say? Dad often teases Mom by saying to her '10 words or less.' Now my kids and husband have to remind me of that as well!"

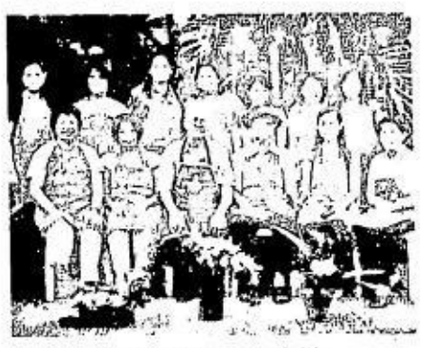
Of my own mother I have a trunk full of memories. For many years, Mom put aside her acting career in favor of raising my brother and me.

Mom, who needs to run (or walk) several miles each week to keep fit, indulged in the sport when she hit her 40s, proving that fitness is possible at any age. This is something that I try to emulate now that I am in my 40s.

As for quirks, as far back as I can remember, Mom has had a long-standing love affair with virgin coconut oil, even before it was in vogue. As a child I could not stand the smell but now that I am much older I find myself turning into a VCO junkie as well. Mom's glowing skin and jet-black hair are proof that it really does work!

How about you? In what ways have you turned into your mother?

Happy mother's day to my mom and my mother-in-law Dr. Naida Guballa. Thank you for all the love and support you have given me all these years. I am truly blessed to have you both in my life.



PROF. Serapion Metilla with his students who are now also in the flower business

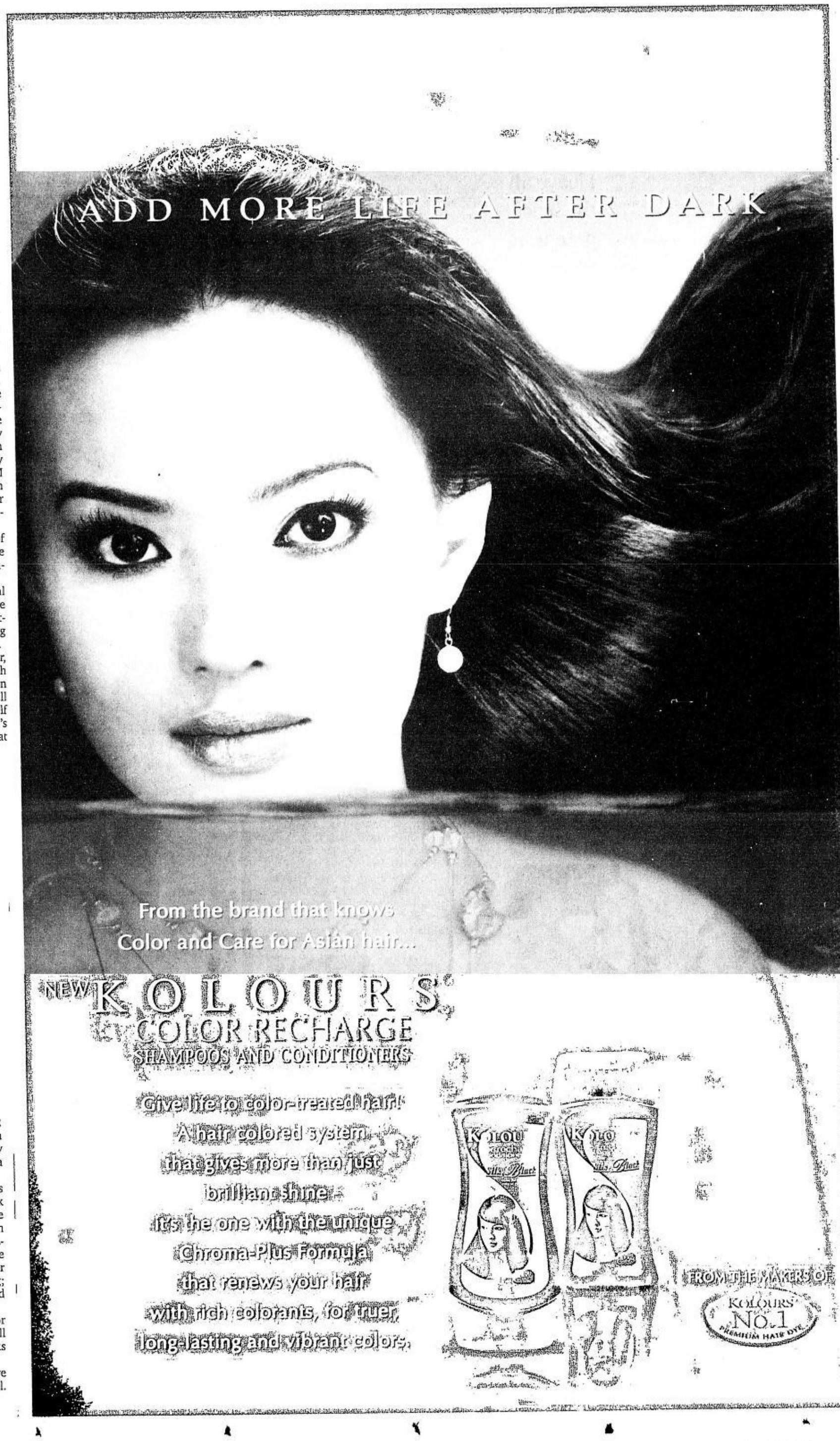
Flower arrangement workshop

A SEMINAR-WORKSHOP ON FLOWER arrangement with flower shop operation for profit and leisure will be offered by Ikebana professor Serapion S. Metilla May 16-20.

To be held at Metr's Plants, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank Environmental Center, Quezon City, the five-day course covers Ikebana, Western style—all-around or one-sided and L-shape; Western style—crescent shape and Hogarth line; free style, buffet or party centerpieces and garland making; and corsage, bridal bouquet making and other wedding ensembles.

A minimum fee will be charged for materials to be used. Each student will make at least two arrangements. Snacks and handouts will also be provided.

Registration at least three days before the start of the seminar is required (tel. 9394593, 4352479 or 0917-8321352).



GIFTS and accessories exporters Mila Lacson, Alessa and Albert de Rivera

RUSTAN'S Aldanese and Anton Barretto

GRACIOUS hosts Lior, Lauren and Maymay Liechtenstein

FIRMA Manila's Markus Schmidt and Richard Danao

FRIENDLY top exporter Jun Allanigue between buyers Bert Willemse and Jeroen Wolterink of DK Home

Doting on kids makes moms sexy

TO ALL OF US EMPOWERED mothers out there, Happy Mother's Day! It's a wonderful day to be recognized for all the years of unconditional love and service to our loving children.

It's a monumental task to buy a present for the most deserving family nurturer. Here are some tips for kids looking for various ways to pamper their moms.

A day at Urban Spa at Shangri-La Plaza Mall is always a welcome treat—nothing like some relaxation and peace to regenerate a Mom's radiance.

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes, daughter of Marixi Prieto

For a wide selection of beauty treats, head to Rustan's Essenses. They have the best options to please the most finicky lady or the tightest budget. The latest and hippest brands of cosmetics and perfumes are available as well as toiletries, candles and accessories.

It's also gratifying to think that every P500 spent in Essenses generates a P1 donation to Rustan's Essenses Foundation. The foundation's president, **Maymay Liechtenstein**, hosted a dinner extravaganza at her ultra-chic modern home to create more awareness about their various programs that help empower women through wellness education and information on women's rights.

The feast for the senses consisted of an incredible combination of awesome food presentations and delicious dishes. It was difficult to focus on the foundation's projects while enjoying an amazing tableau of chocolate desserts. The message went through loud and clear though as the guests were serenaded by the melodious operatic voice of talented daughter **Lauren Liechtenstein**. Indeed, shopping and charity make a perfect match at Rustan's Essenses.

My son's graduation

This year, Mother's Day is especially poignant as my eldest son, **Bryan**, just graduated from Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont, California. I couldn't help but feel an overwhelming sense of pride and accomplishment as I watched him receive his diploma onstage, the prize of over two decades of motherhood. As MasterCard puts it, this feeling is "priceless."

Now my eldest son and I are fellow alums of Notre Dame, although our circumstances are quite different. At the time, I was an inexperienced, single mom finishing a degree in interior design. Motherhood came suddenly but was totally welcomed.

Over the years, my parenting methods have evolved with technology. It is so much easier to keep in touch with kids, thanks to cell phones, e-mail, chat and video calls. And there are so many new technologies on the horizon. What will kids do to keep naughty when GPS makes them contactable and monitorable on a 24/7 basis?

There is no comprehensive manual for being an ideal and perfect mother but time and experience make the job easier and actually enjoyable as the years go by. Proper discipline is still a skill I need to learn since I leave all the strict parenting to my stern-but-fair husband **Dennis**. I take full charge of the more fun and colorful parts of life.

With one down and three to go, Dennis and I eagerly look forward to our remaining children's education. Our youngest, **Athena**, turned two on Bryan's graduation day, so May 5 turned out to be a really special and emotional day.

> I leave all the strict parenting to my stern-but-fair husband. I take full charge of the more fun and colorful parts of life

Great caterer

Our double celebration featured a Dora-themed party and a graduation bash. I found a great caterer, Catering By Design, which came up with an excellent menu. It also assisted with the physical arrangements.

The owner of the catering firm, **J.R. San Diego** (e-mail him at jrsnd@yahoo.com), worked with his Indonesian executive chef, **Daniel Sudar**, and came up with a California-cuisine menu with an Asian twist. J.R. is also opening an Asian-fusion restaurant called Red Lantern in Redwood City, California, next month.

To add to the décor, I brought decorative objects from the recent Citem show. The exhibits at the biannual Manila FAME International are increasingly becoming more and more impressive. The synergistic designs of different Filipino manufacturers of furniture, furnishings, accessories and jewelry are setting the country apart from the rest of our Asian neighbors.

Pinoy design flair

This unrelenting drive for excellence through experimentation and innovation has brought forth Filipino individuality before the global market. Many artists and designers are continuously amazing foreign buyers with their ingenious creations using indigenous materials, land and sea treasures, and other renewable resources.

Many designers have made huge names for themselves internationally, such as **Kenneth Cobonpue**, **Ann Pamintuan** and the rest of the members of Movement 8. Of course, before I left the FAME show, I "did my share" to support these guys. Retail therapy is always rewarding, especially at the avant-garde, fascinating shop of Avatar's **Butch Carungay**. His abundantly designed booth has constant flowing champagne and laughter. His numerous accessories, of all colors and styles imaginable, are selling like hotcakes all over the world.

In the world of fashion, too, a number of Filipino designers have earned accolades abroad as well as being featured in top international fashion magazines, including **Tina Ocampo**, **Bea Valdes** and **Rafe Totengco**. While I was shopping in Target, I saw Rafe's fun line of summer bags on display. It does make you feel proud to be Pinoy to see these guys do so well. Rafe hails from Negros, which reminds me of another Ilonggo artist, **Raymond Legaspi**.

Raymond is opening his show "Once Upon A Daster" at ArtistSpace, Ayala Museum, on Tuesday, May 15. Raymond's art pieces feature Botero-like ladies wearing that classic, *probinsya* dress of Pinay moms, the *daster*, which he treats in a colorful, witty manner. I actually bought one of Raymond's early works from his "Daster" series last year.

Go see the exhibit with your mothers, as it runs until May 28. Sometimes the best gift of all for Mother's Day is simply to spend time with our mothers.

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

RUSTAN'S Essenses Foundation ladies: treasurer Crickette Tantoco, president Maymay Liechtenstein, Katrina Feist, Romina Gonzalez, Gemma Cruz-Araneta, Chiqui Roa-Puno, Angel Ramos, Nikki Teodoro and VP Rhoda Aldanese

METRO Society editor Raul Manzano, Gonzalez and Lia Bernardo

KIND-HEARTED beauties Cruz-Araneta, Kat Holigores and Feist

FAR East Furniture exporters Paul Cornelissen, Daisy del Rosario and Rob Van Reisen

LOVELY ladies Teodoro, Lorraine Belmonte, Sari Yap and Roa-Puno

PROUD graduate Bryan Prieto with happy family Myda Prieto, Sea Princess/Mom, Marixi Prieto and Andrew Prieto

STYLISH friends Celine Lopez and Cat Juan

FOUNDATION ladies Tantoco and Ramos

AVATAR Accessories fun owner Butch Carungay

ANASTACIO Ceramics family Juliet Basilio, Rachel B. Jumawan, Leila B. Baldonado, Mr. and Mrs. Anastacio Basilio and Jan Basilio

CHOCOLATE tableau extravaganza with truffles, cakes, pies, cookies and tarts

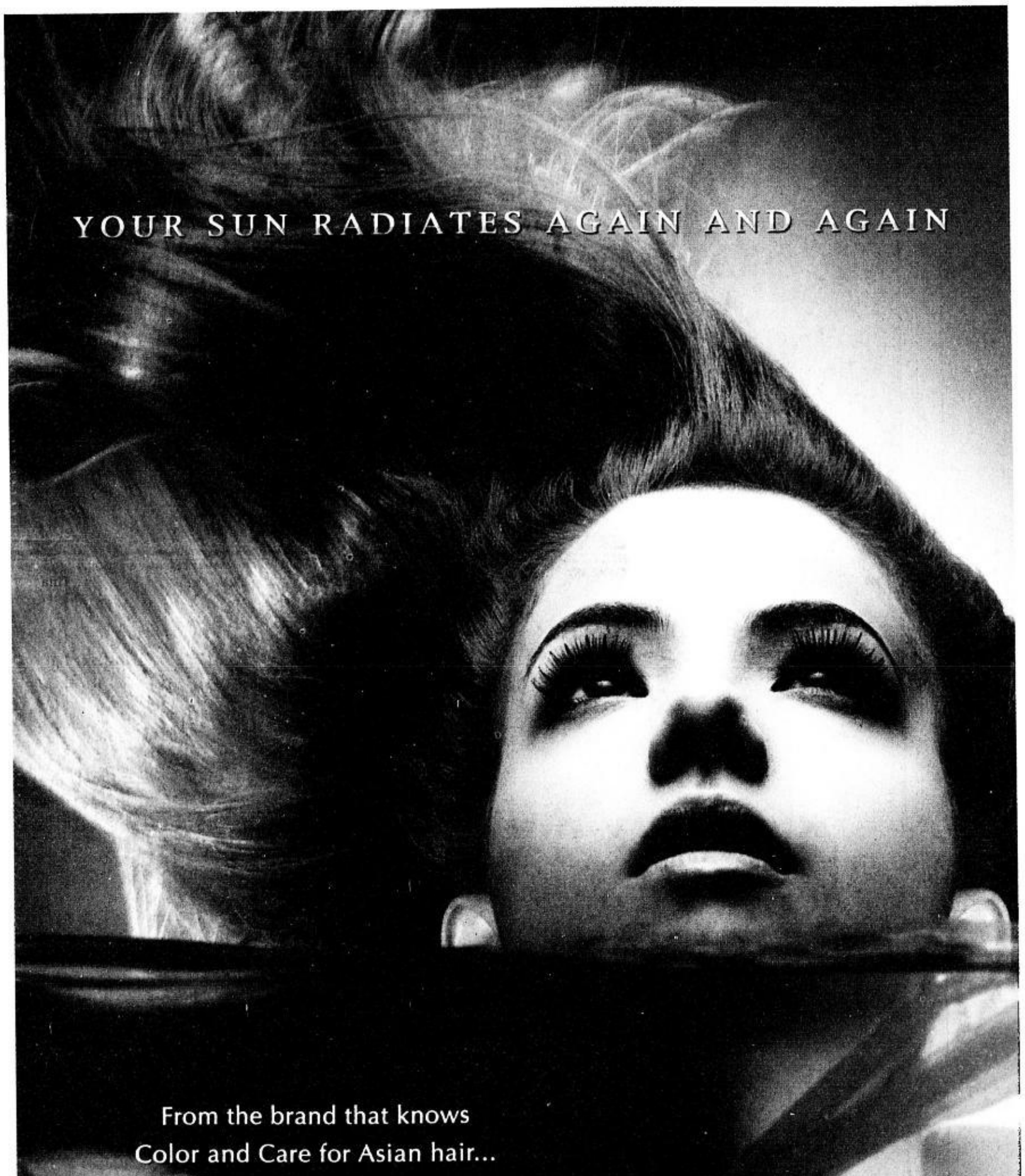
SPECTACULAR presentation of New Zealand oyster and citrus jelly on pomegranate molasses foam

BARNACLES with live fish for the *tawilis* and baby squid main entrée

GILDED Expressions' Ann Pamintuan

COLOR & CARE FOR *Asian hair*

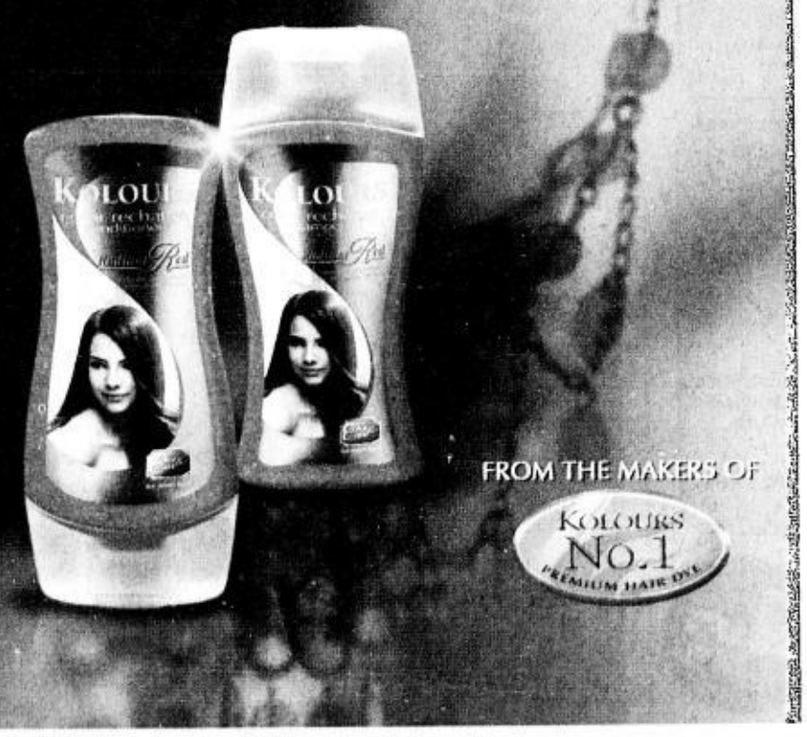
HOT
REDS.
JET
BLACKS.
RICH
BROWNS.



From the brand that knows
Color and Care for Asian hair...

NEW KOLOURS
COLOR RECHARGE
SHAMPOOS AND CONDITIONERS

Give life to color-treated hair!
A hair colored system
that gives more than just
brilliant shine -
it's the one with the unique
Chroma-Plus Formula
that renews your hair
with rich colorants, for truer,
long-lasting and vibrant colors.



Colored hair has become an eye-catching way for a woman to make a splash. Not only does it set a woman apart from the crowd, but it also says a lot about a woman's personality: Youthful. Modern. Daring. Feminine. All of the above.

But not all hair coloring products are created alike.

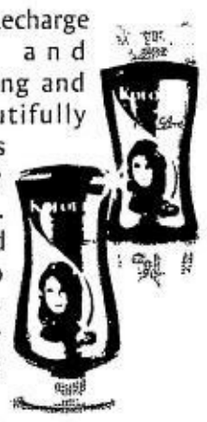
Most brands of hair colorants developed for European women are not well suited for Asian hair. Unlike European hair, Asian hair is thicker, darker and coarser making it more resistant to treatments like coloring. Without the right balance and proportions of dyes and conditioners, hair can become dry and dull.

In cases like these, regular shampoos and conditioners cannot provide proper care for colored hair. In addition, some hair shades tend to fade easily after several washings, hence a more specialized hair care product should be used. Even ordinary shampoo products which claim to be used on colored hair can, at best, only provide moisture and shine.

Do not worry because Kolours understands the needs of Asian hair, from root to tip!

Kolours offers a range of hair coloring products expertly created for Asian hair, beginning with Kolours Dual Conditioning Crème - the Number 1 Premium Home-use hair dye. Now, Kolours introduces a new hair care system ideal for colored Asian hair – new Kolours Color Recharge Shampoos and Conditioners!

Kolours Color Recharge Shampoos and Conditioners come in 3 variants that are suitable for all hair color types: Silky Black, Brilliant Brown and Radiant Red. Truly the perfect hair care complement to all the 22 shades of the Kolours Dual Conditioning system!



With Kolours Color Recharge Shampoos and Conditioners, having and maintaining beautifully colored hair is possible in 3 easy steps! Coloring ... Shampooing ... and Conditioning! So Asian women no longer have to worry about faded and lifeless tresses. And there's definitely no need to worry about dry and dull hair!

Kolours Color Recharge Shampoos and Conditioners are the only products in the market today with the Chroma- Plus Formula. This is a unique color-depositing feature that prolongs the beauty and hues of colored Asian hair -- making it truer, more vibrant and longer-lasting. So every time colored hair is shampooed and conditioned with Kolours Color Recharge, the color is renewed and refreshed!

Thanks to Kolours, Asian women everywhere can stand out, stand apart, and hold their heads up high!

Lucky mom wins Benz, prize showcase

SUSIE DORONILA ESPRA, Citibank credit card owner, won the grand prize in the recently concluded Take Ten promotion of Citibank cards. She walked away with a brand-new Mercedes Benz and a host of lifestyle prizes that included latest appliances for her home, electronic gadgets and shopping money.

"When I received the call, I really thought it was just a prank, especially when they told me that I won a Mercedes Benz. So I called up Citibank's toll-free number and asked to be connected with their sales and promotion department. When I got the confirmation, I was so excited and immediately called my husband Moises in Saudi Arabia," said Espra.

An engineer for the Natural Transmission Corp., Espra is mom to Mallori, 12, and Szhean Moises Rie, 5, and is raising her family in Mandaue, Cebu. "I remember winning a Canon camera two years ago also from Citibank and being so happy about it. Of course, now I'm just over the moon."

As the grand winner in Citibank's Take Ten promotion, Susie won a 43-inch Sony projection TV, a Philips home theater, an HP Pavilion notebook, Canon digital camera and printer, an Apple 30GB iPod video, a Motorola RAZR V3X mobile phone, two round-trip tickets to Hong Kong via Cathay Pacific, P100,000 worth of Mercury Drug gift certificates, P100,000 shopping credit to her winning Citibank credit card, and a New Generation Mercedes Benz E-Class.

The Citibank Take Ten promo was held October 2006-January 2007. To join, Citibank cardholders had to register once via text message. Raffle chances were earned for charging at least P1,000 to their Citibank credit card, using Cash Advance or PayLite Installment Plan, enrolling in Citibank One Bill, applying for new and supplementary credit cards, and transacting via Citibank Online.

"I think this is one of the most exciting promotions Citibank has given for its cardholders. You just register one time by sending a text message and you automatically earn entries for all qualified purchases. This campaign showed us how much they value our business. I've been a Citibank cardholder for 10 years now and own two Citibank cards; a Gold VISA and MasterCard."

She's even encouraged her sisters to get their own Citibank credit cards. "I actually got supplementary cards for them *kasi* it's really helpful during emergencies. Now my officemates want to apply, too, especially after they knew I won. *Bongga daw ang* Citibank promos!"

Like Espra, you, too, can be a big winner with Citibank credit cards. Apply for one today at 4233000 or visit www.citibank.com.ph.

Find out what he's listening to with

DECODE by SMART

Now SMART Cellphones can read!
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Scan these codes now and serenade your special someone with these FREE ring tones.

Find out how this ringtone can put you in the mood.

Discover what this code is in your phone's eyes.

Don't be blue. This new. ringtone should cheer you up.

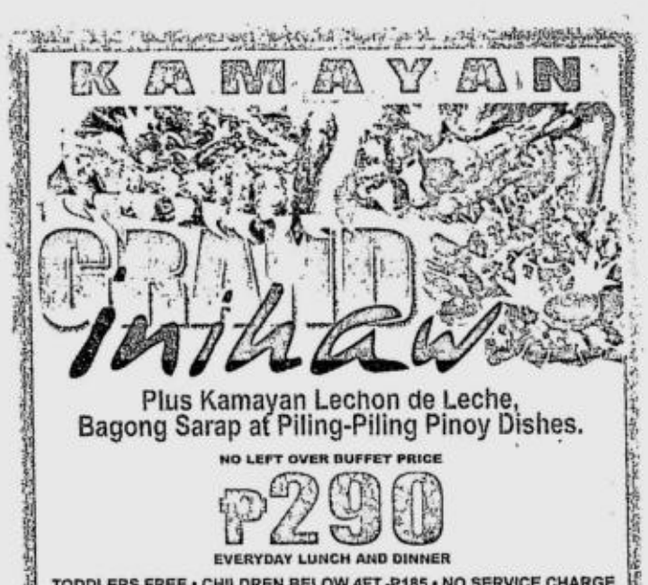
With this ringtone you'll surely love Decode!

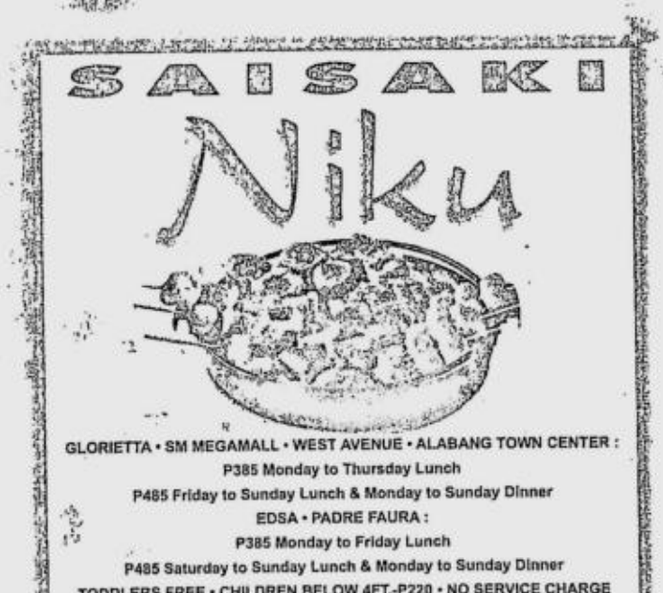
JOIN THE DECODE PROMO NOW!

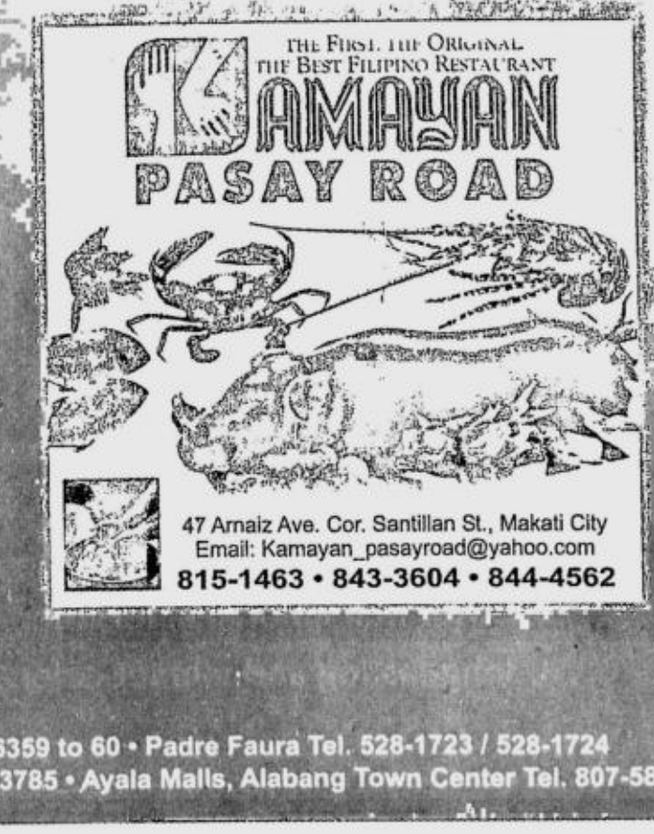
1. Starting April 15 and all succeeding weekends until May 13, 2007, you can join the Decode Promo at 7 participating Wireless Centers to win fabulous prizes. Sign up at SM Fairview, Bicutan, Manila, North Edsa, South Mall, Mega Mall and Gateway Cubao. And on April 20, 23, 27, 30, May 4, 7, 11 at SMART Tower.
2. Win by joining the in-store game. But also earn more points to win more prizes by referring and registering your friends.
3. All referrals must successfully download the Decode application in order for the referror to earn points. Be one of the top 8 referrors and get a chance to win a **new edition phone, an I-Pod and gift certificates!**
4. DECODE your way to great prizes in 8 participating SMART Wireless Centers. Promo ends May 13, 2007.

Decode currently works on Symbian Series 60 2nd Edition and J2ME capable handsets (ex. Nokia N70, 6600, and 6680).
Activate your GPRS and MMS for free! Just text set_phone model_ to 211 Ex: set N6600 and send to 211
See flyers for details. DTI Permit #1558 S.2007

DAHIL SMART TAYO







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Sunday LIFESTYLE

The deep end of love

Or how to toss together a salad of people with the right energies for a ritual

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By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

AS I GROW OLDER, I FEEL more and more like a long-used ricefield that must diversify. I have dropped some of my regular meetings and obligatory socials to give room for more painting, dancing and new experiences. Not that I had not been trying out varied things for quite a while—a recent one being with five sexes on the same table after a fashion show. We were two females, a male, a gay male, a gay female (who had just revealed the fact to her religious mother), and stunning transgender (operated male) clad in a Dior dress, a designer from Cebu whom Cecille von Stratten had brought. We were of varied ages as well, 32 to 77, feeling no difference in generation or sexuality, just exchanging comfortable banter. That was good.

But of course I wanted to plow in deeper. I wanted to toss together a salad of people who would be the right energies for a ritual we would invent as we went along.

I met Rama Marcaida (who specializes in Asian dance) in a choreography workshop given by Edna Vida years ago, and I had always dreamt of dancing with him again. Since he is a star dancer and I am a forgettable one, this was a far-fetched fantasy. But one day, while Ning and I were lunching at a vegetarian restaurant called Greens, Rama wandered in, bald pate glowing like a halo. He joined us and I asked him whether we could dance in my house a little bit and he liked the idea. We did a euphoric half hour of creative body movement. That was how I found Rama again.

Purest souls

Greens, owned by Mary Ann Duran, is some kind of power spot in Quezon City. It is where the loveliest, purest souls (also the weirdest) converge to partake of tofu and lassi. That's where I reconnected to Edwin "Bong" de la Torre who had been a minor dancer in my first stage production, Jamming on an Old Saya. Now he was a major urban *babaylan* (native shaman or healer). He said that every time he liked an article of mine, he would see me eating in Greens the next day.

Bong said he dances to the "music of the spheres" which is "the sound of dry leaves dropping to the moist ground, a rock baking under the sun, the language of turtles, the sound of a wave meeting a raindrop." Since I am a sucker for poetic stuff I couldn't resist inviting Bong to join the coming "event."

For three years I have gone for acupuncture to Dr. Ed (Concepcion) in Teachers' Village. He is earthy and artistic and funny and kind and has the biggest names lined up for appointments. He never talks about them but you bump into one every so often. His wife, Dr. Joy, has the lightest surest fingers that have ever inserted needles in a body. Yes, they wanted to come.

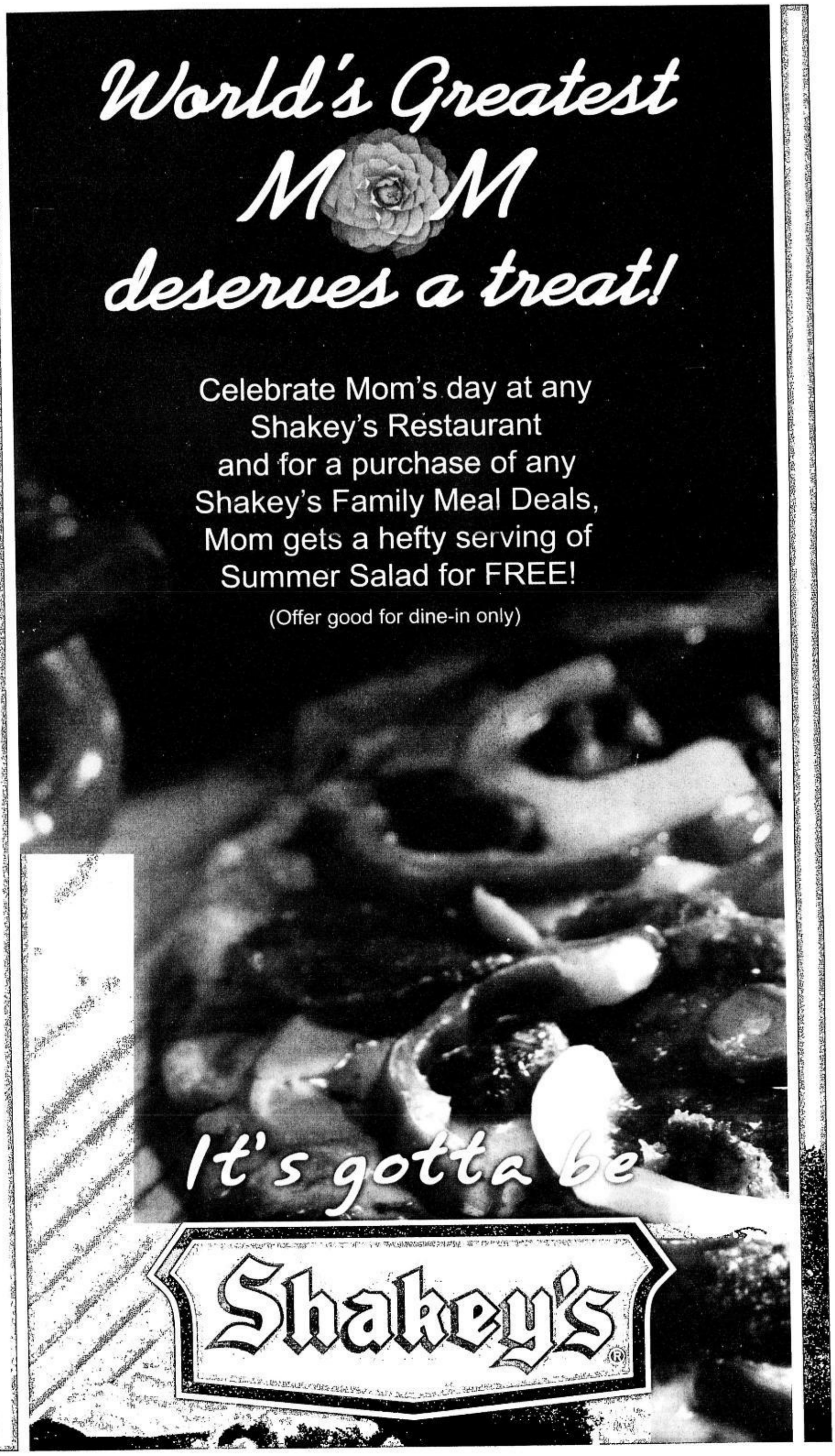
For more than 20 years, Julie Lluch has been making sculptures of my family. We had once danced in great harmony in Norma Liongoren's gallery. She bumped into Mariel and asked if she could dance in the next body movement session and that's how Julie became the next guest.

I mailed a note to well-known choreographer Steve Villaruz because he had gotten in touch with me after the last NCCA awarding. For a long time he did not reply. I thought he was either out of the country or found the thought of doing body movement with (mostly) non-dancers a real pain. I also invited Filipiniana researcher and *herbolario* Ph.D. Michael Tan, but he was going abroad. Music buff Manny Chaves simply refused to join.

Graceful movers

Fridays, in Crescent Moon Café, Antipolo, a group studies *kalimasada*, a martial art also used for healing, with deep nerve therapist Ollie Juma-os. Wendy, my daughter, is one of his students. She told me that heavy-set Ollie was a very graceful mover and would blend well with the incarnating group. So Ollie was the next victim. It wasn't a real party, I explained, I was only serving egg sandwiches.

THE DEEP/ G4



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2007

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Turning the tables on HK and Macau

DOT officials and travel agents invite Hong Kongers and Macanese to take a break in RP

PHILIPPINE Consul General Alejandrino Vicente (left) receives a token of appreciation from Tourism Undersecretary Phineas Alburo.

By Vangie Baga-Reyes
Daughter of Sol Sy Baga

IT WAS AN AFTERNOON OF exchanging travel insights and information as well as current tour activities among travel agents from Hong Kong, Macau and the Philippines. The pleasant swapping was part of the aggressive efforts of the Department of Tourism in promoting the Philippines in this region.

The Philippine Tourism Product Presentation, held separately at InterContinental Hong Kong Hotel and at Macau Tower, aimed to convince more Chinese travelers to visit the Philippines.

"When you look at Hong Kong or Macau, the Philippines is the nearest location to them among Asean destinations," said DOT Undersecretary Phineas Alburo. "Flying to Manila takes only an hour and 45 minutes. We just need to push constantly and give different, exciting travel schemes to Hong Kong and Macau travelers."

China has been DOT's priority because of its untapped potential, robust growth in outbound travels, and proximity to our country. It's now a major source market for the Philippines. In 2006, DOT continued to see strong growth in the number of arrivals from China, which had doubled the overall rate for other markets.

Easy travel has been the trend among Hong Kong and Macau travelers. They veer away from joining group tours, and instead they create and choose their own itineraries and destinations. These people, often called Foreign Independent Travelers (FIT), either fly alone or travel with a small group of friends.

Tourism trends

The product presentation showcased new developments happening in the Philippine travel industry. These developments address basic factors sophisticated Hong Kong tourists seek—exciting destinations, world-class accommodations and places for relaxation, and that unique Pinoy hospitality.

– Stephen Wong, honorary advisor of the Association of National Tourist Office Representatives in HK, emphasized that HK travelers' weekend hideaway concept was now about having brief but memorable breaks.

"It's not really a holiday vacation for them but a 'break' from their work," he said. "They pick up their bags and go—Hong Kong to Cebu or Hong Kong to Manila. Again, they look for a breakaway destination... If the Philippines can set a trend of some sort for our young people, it would be great. Romantic places, unique wedding ceremonies and honeymoon destinations are very attractive to us as well."

DOT also saw fit to promote Philippine health tourism, including various spa destinations. Catharine Nicol, AsiaSpa magazine editor in chief, a regular visitor to the Philippines and a spa enthusiast, talked to HK travel agents about the Philippines as a perfect spa holiday destination.

"I still believe that in some ways the Philippines is underrated as a holiday destination," she said. "But, whatever the reasons for this, things are already changing, and for the better. I think it is because of the fantastic work the spa industry has done in marketing the country.

"The Philippines is well on track to providing spa-goers sanctuaries for real holistic healing and balance, such as The Farm in San Benito where spa treatments are combined with serious medical help for all sorts of disease and ill-health issues. At Mandala on Boracay, yoga retreats are becoming very popular, working as they do on the physical and mental health of the guests."

Well-planned packages

Together with Undersecretary Alburo and other DOT officials, including Rica Bueno, head of Team Asia-Pacific Tourism Planning and Promotions, and Cocoy Magsalin, senior tourism operations officer, members of the Philippine Tour Operators Association (Philtoa) were also present to talk about thematic Philippine tour programs.

"We offer packages that create 'swing-around' opportunities, not just island-hopping but country-hopping, in a cost-effective, exciting and unique packaging that will make travel to Asia, including the Philippines, more attractive," said Joselita Pestano, president of Philtoa.

PHILIPPINE business representative exchanges information with Macau-based travel agents.

DOT REPRESENTATIVES, travel agents and Philippine Tour Operators Association members compose the recent Philippine Tourism Product Presentation in Hong Kong and Macau.

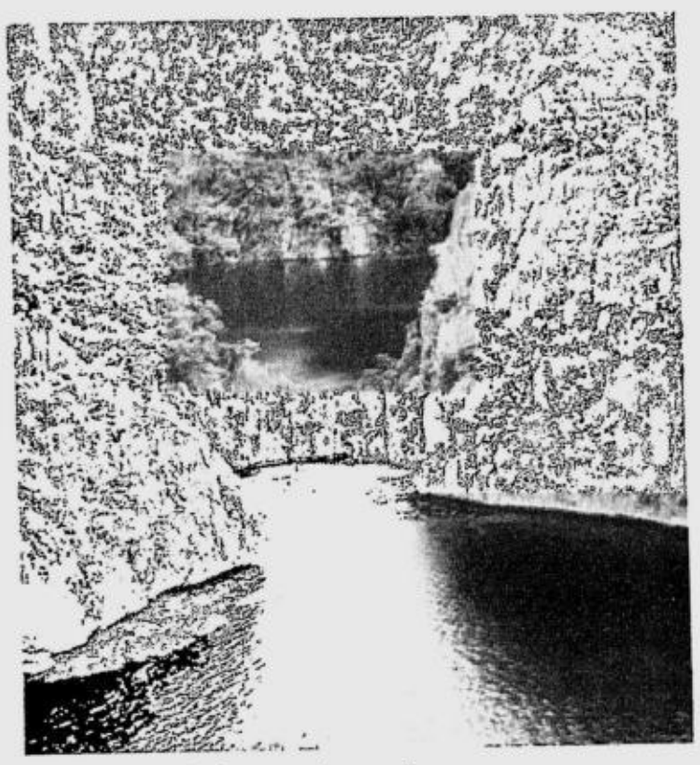
Alburo ended the meeting by confirming that central Philippines was now the premier tourist destination in the Pacific, given that seven out of the 10 most visited local beaches were in this location: Cebu, Boracay, Negros Occidental, Bicol, Samar, Palawan and Romblon.

"Central Philippines is a destination essential for tourism," he stressed. "Our future is based on bringing our tourists from the urban centers to the countryside."

The Philippine government is now constructing airports in areas near tourist spots, such as in Silay, Negros Occidental. It is upgrading existing airports such as those in Kalibo, Aklan, which serves Boracay. It is also working on opening another airport in Romblon to further widen access to Boracay.

After the presentation, the HK-based and Macau-based travel agents had the chance to conduct one-on-one business meetings with Filipino business representatives.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph



Hot rewards for card members

Among the rewards being offered by the American Express Peso Platinum Credit Card to its members this season are a home aromatherapy massage, a hair dryer with features that offer more protection from the damaging effects of thermal heat, and gift vouchers to selected stores.

The items are being offered in exchange for Membership Rewards (MR) points earned by members as they use their credit cards—one point for every P45 charged to their card.

According to Grace D. Limjap, Card Marketing head of American Express Bank, millions of rewards points have actually been used by card members to redeem gift vouchers and other items featured in the American Express rewards catalogue.

In any rewards program, the essential thing is to offer clients products and services "they consider hot for the moment." The products in the catalogue are reviewed periodically—with less popular selections replaced with new offerings that address customers' aspirations and concerns.

Until June 30, card members can redeem one of the most popular rewards—vouchers to pay for their children's tuition. Melissa A. Lopez, marketing executive, explained that for 19,500 Rewards Points, a card member may redeem a check for P5,000 made payable to any school of his choice. For 38,000 points, the value of the check can be doubled to P10,000. The American Express Membership Rewards Program is also offering round-trip SeAir flights to Boracay and Palawan for 12,000 points per trip. Unlike other rewards programs, these rewards are not tied up to any frequent flyer program, can be more easily redeemed, and are not subject to block-out dates. Card members may simply book by calling the 24-Hour American Express Platinum Travel Services.

Travel Briefs

See Hong Kong's natural wonders

The Hong Kong Tourism Board has repackaged and introduced a range of eco-oriented tours, via the Hong Kong Nature Kaleidoscope program, to enable visitors to appreciate Hong Kong's natural wonders.

The program offers visitors an array of nature-tourism products and experiences every day of the week. It also features different guided tours throughout the year to tie in with the changing seasons, so that visitors can choose and take part in tours best suited to their interests. To extend an even greater variety of nature experiences to visitors, the HKTB has enriched the itineraries of selected tours. For instance, the Hong Kong Wetlands Delight Tour not only features Hong Kong Wetland Park, but also oyster farms in Lau Fau Shan and the beautiful scenery of the Pan-Pearl River Delta.

The HKTB has also included a number of popular tours currently available in the market, such as the dolphin-watching tour and various hiking itineraries. HKTB will continue to work closely with travel trade and related organizations to enrich the program by identifying more tours that cater to visitors' interests. Plans are already in hand to introduce tours of the wetlands in Long Valley and Mai Po in the autumn.

Enjoying Guam in May

May is Tourism Month in Guam. The Guam Visitors Bureau promises an exciting array of events, including more athletic competitions starting with the 4th Annual Guam International Tennis Open (www.guamopen.com). The fifth and final race of the GEAR Sprint Series will be held May 5. GEAR 7 includes running, trekking, mountain biking, ocean kayaking, orienteering, swimming and extreme teamwork. It will be followed by the Guam Extreme Adventure Race 7 on May 27 (www.guamextremeadventurerace.com).

Summer promo

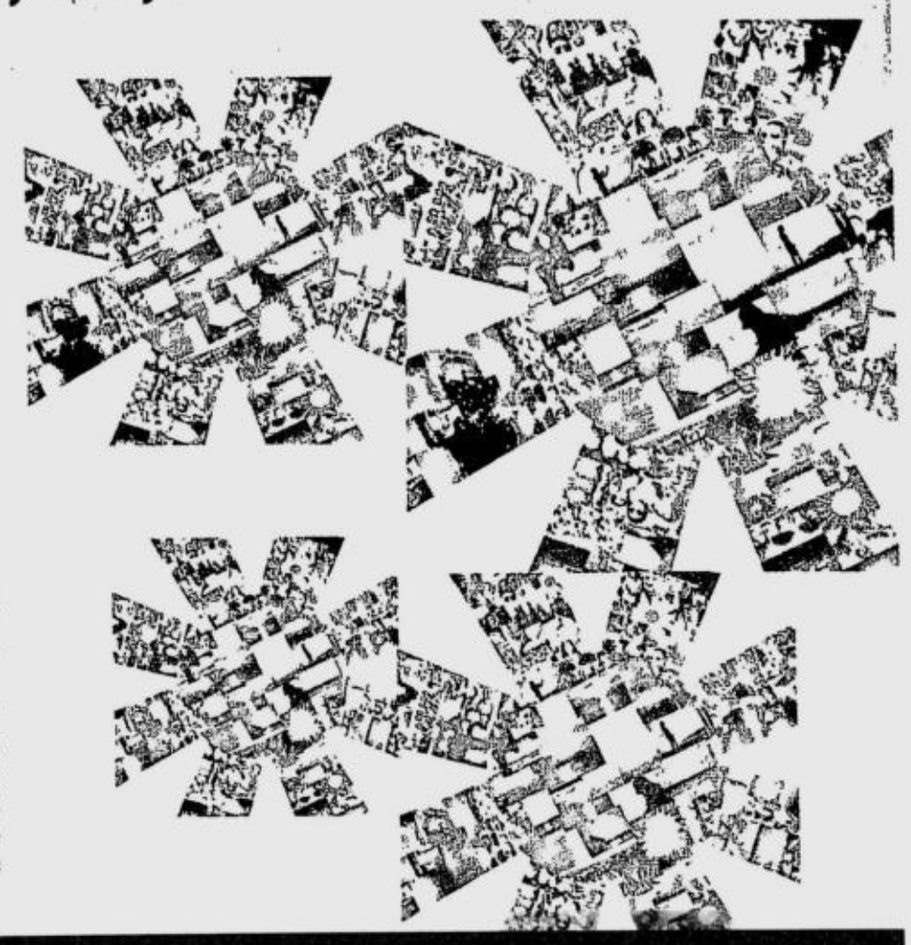
Marco Polo Plaza (tel. 8454574 and 032-2531111) offers Summer Barkada Package, with a complimentary gourmet pizza and a chilled pitcher of beer at the Pool Bar. Savor a free buffet breakfast for three at the famous Café Marco. The package also includes free use of the hotel's gym. Guests can also avail of a 10-percent discount on lunch or dinner buffet and spa services. The promo is valid up to June 15.

THE NATIONAL Association of Independent Travel Agencies (Naitas) held their first National Assembly of Officers and the 17 Chapter presidents nationwide in Bacolod City recently in cooperation with Negros Oriental Gov. Joseph Maranon, Bacolod Casino Filipino Hotel, Philippine Airlines, and hosted by Bacolod Naitas chapter. Photo shows the group led by its national president, Angel Ramos Bognot (first row, center), and chair, Robert Lim Joseph (3rd from right, first row), with participants at the famous Mambukal Mountain Hot Spring Resort Landmark during their workshop-seminar.

PARTICIPANTS to the three-day Concierge Seminar held recently at Regalia Tower Suites are Nadine Leovna, Joan Canuto (Amarela Resort, Panglao), Ritzelle Orejudos (InterCon Hotel), Jaime Fernando (Diamond Hotel), Pops del Rosario (Le Clef D' Or member and seminar facilitator), Yves Remoundeulaz (GM, Regalia Tower Suites), Marlon Prado (Richmonde Hotel), Sherrie Blanco, Reynaldo Pajarito and Abigail Ables (Dusit Hotel Nikko).

Canon ImageNation Summer '07

Canon Launches New PowerShot, Digital IXUS, EOS, and PhotoDV Camcorders



Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. brings digital imaging to a new level as it introduces a new line of models for the PowerShot, Digital IXUS, PhotoDV, and EOS Digital categories in the Canon ImageNation Summer '07 product exposition.

"Canon celebrates its 10th anniversary in the Philippines this year. We also recently launched our corporate campaign – the Canon ImageNation, which reflects both Canon's capability and reputation of being a total imaging company and more importantly, Canon's relationship with the image-loving Filipino," said Ramon Arteficio, CMPI President and CEO. "With these new line-up of products, we are confident that the Filipinos will be well-equipped to capture all the best images of summer."

Canon Technology Excellence

DIGIC is the digital imaging core behind the PowerShot, Digital IXUS, EOS, and DV camcorders products being launched. This exclusive imaging processor improves internal image processing, which results in faster speed, more accurate auto-focus and improved image quality.

The **DIGIC III** Image Processor is the latest advancement in Canon's proprietary DIGIC technology. Found in the newest PowerShot and Digital IXUS cameras, it boasts of the new Face Detection AF/AE, which intelligently detects up to nine faces in the frame and sets the most suitable focus point.

Developed especially for the new EOS-1D Mark III, Canon's newest technology, **Dual DIGIC III,** gives the camera two of Canon's newest processing units, working in parallel, to dramatically enhance image quality and deliver the speed and power needed to combine 10 million pixels and the ability to capture 10-frames-per-second.

The Canon **DIGIC DV,** unique to Canon camcorders, ensures appropriate color processing for video and stills. **DIGIC DV II** on the other hand, found exclusively in Canon HD camcorders and the new DC50 DVD camcorder, is optimized for demanding operations, increasing battery life by 180% and further improving noise reduction, and color handling.

Canon PowerShot: A great shot every time

Canon updates its best-selling PowerShot range with new and affordable models – the **PowerShot A460, A550, A560, A570 IS**, and **TX1**. The PowerShot **A460** is available in three new colors: silver, blue and red. A selectable Grid Line Display on the LCDs helps with shot composition, while the 2.0" screen size makes it easy for family members to view photos together without having to connect the camera to a PC.

The **PowerShot A560** and **A570 IS** feature a 2.5" LCD screen, making it easier to frame tricky shots or share image playback with friends, while an added feature in the **PowerShot A560** offers users a whopping 19 shooting modes. The **PowerShot A570 IS** also features the Optical Image Stabilizer technology, which ensures blur-free images in low light conditions and at full zoom.

The revolutionary **PowerShot TX1** has the ability to capture high quality images and high definition at 1280x720 video resolution. Its credit card sized body and vertical orientation also distinguishes it from the rest of the PowerShot models. It boasts of 7.1 megapixel resolution and 10x optical zoom lens with Optical Image Stabilizer that helps significantly reduce the blurring effects of camera shake that can occur at long zoom settings or during long exposures.

Canon Digital IXUS: Where style meets substance

The **IXUS 70 and IXUS 75** are the slimmest IXUS digital cameras to date. Using a 7.1 megapixel CCD sensor, Canon has further slimmed down the two new IXUS cameras without sacrificing image quality.

The **IXUS 70 and 75** feature Multiple Face Detection to ensure spectacular group photos by automatically detecting up to 9 faces in the frame. They also come with a 2.5-inch and 3.0-inch "Pure Colour" LCD, respectively. The "Pure Colour" LCD is capable of producing a wide colour range, highly precise images and provides a wide viewing angle. The new LCD monitor is also resistant to scratches, fingerprints and dust and reduces reflected light for easier viewing of images even in bright outdoor situations.

In addition, both IXUS models feature the evolved Red-Eye Correction during playback. They also have the new Auto ISO Shift tool that counters image blur due to hand or camera shake by adjusting ISO speeds until blurring is diminished.

DV Camcorders: Quality with Ease of Use

Canon introduces three new models in its popular ZR series camcorders: the **ZR850, ZR830**, and **ZR800 Mini-DV Camcorders**. The 2.7-inch widescreen LCD (112,000 pixels) found in all three models allows users to easily compose shots that can be shown on a widescreen TV.

The new ZR series camcorders offer genuine Canon 35x optical zoom lens (plus 1000x digital zoom), which is Canon's longest optical zoom on a camcorder to date. The added Smooth Zoom feature reduces the erratic, jerky zoom techniques, smoothing out the process by selecting from one of three pre-set zoom speeds.

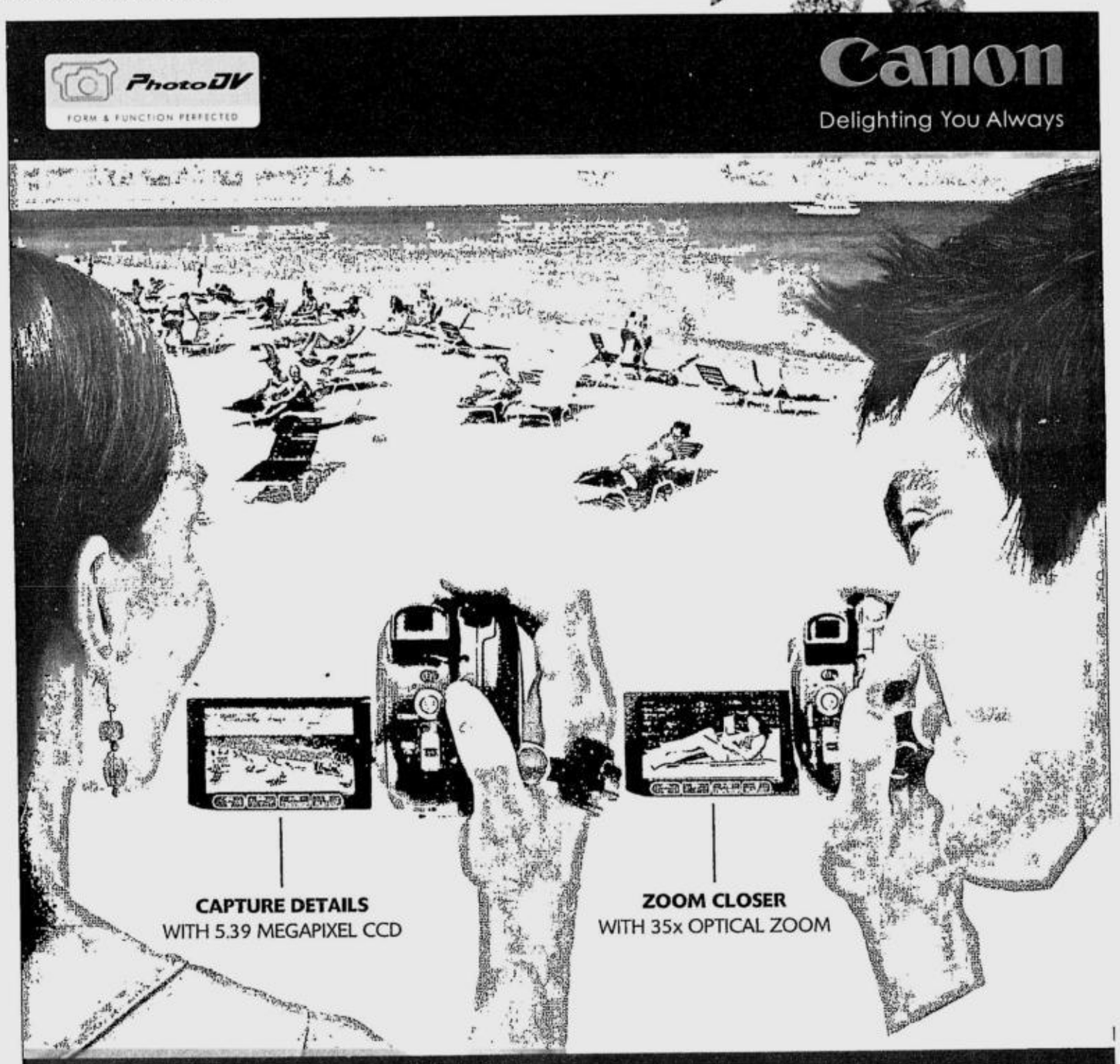
Canon also unveils three new models in its DV line of camcorders – the **DC210, DC220**, and **DC230**. These compact camcorders have 35x optical zoom lenses and 2.7-inch widescreen LCDs. The lower-end **DC210** and **DC220** use 680,000 pixel sensors, while the **DC230** boasts of a 1 megapixel CCD for still shooting. The **DC220** and **DC230** also include a QuickStart function allowing less than 1 second start up time.

The **Canon DC50** is Canon's new premiere DVD camcorder. It uses a 5 megapixel CCD and Canon's Digic DV II image processor to handle footage. The DC50 features 10x optical zoom lens with optical image stabilization allowing long shots without a tripod.

Digital EOS: The Stylish Professional

Canon unveils its flagship and newest professional DSLR camera – the new 10.1 megapixel **EOS-1D Mark III**. It features the new Dual DIGIC III Imaging Processor for ultra-fast processing speed that can capture up to 10-frames-per-second. Power-packed with other high performance features such as EOS Integrated Cleaning System, 300,000-cycle shutter durability and 19-point cross-type AF sensor, the EOS-1D Mark III is truly the pinnacle of photographic excellence with no compromise in shooting performance.

All the new products are backed by Canon's 70 years of experience and expertise in the imaging industry. It is because of this that Canon can assure consumers that the products it offers are best in class. Canon provides consumers the right tools to capture, store, and share all the important experiences and memories this summer.



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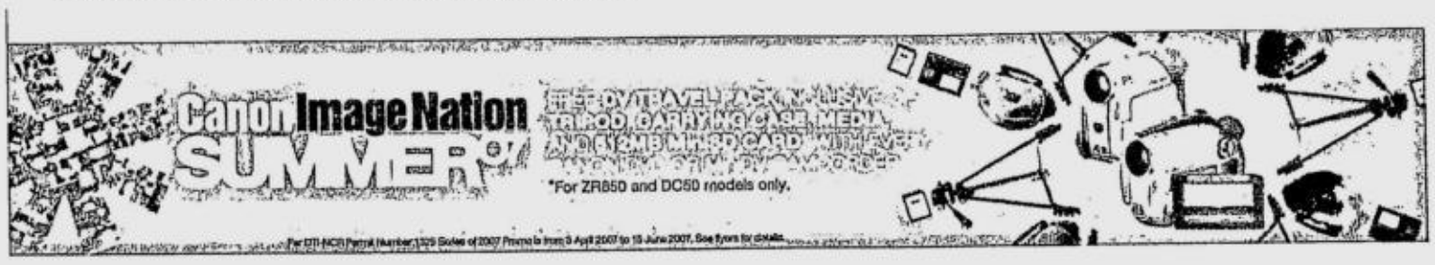

The deep end of love

From page G1

Soon enough I had to attend a four-day art therapy workshop. There I met Dr. Pinky Baclig who had been in integrative (alternative and normal) medical practice in Mindanao and Manila. Her dream was to put up a "birthing center" near Delgado clinic in Q.C. "where delivery would be on a mat on the floor, with soft lights and music, and, in as gentle a way as possible, bring a baby into the world." In the sharing segment of the workshop Pinky asked me what my interest was at the moment, so I told her about the brewing body movement to-do. I will attend it, she declared, and that was that.

There are no accidents in the universe and if anyone was meant to be there, she or he would be, that's all I was convinced of. So far synchronicity had led all the participants to me. What I couldn't figure out was why it was composed of so many doctors and healers since it was beginning to look like some medical mission.

Lost adoptees

Dr. Pinky's role fell into place when Ann Wizer, artist, costume designer and close friend who had collaborated on theater productions with me, answered my text invitation. Can't come, she replied. She was on 24-hour watch over her teenage daughter Naomi, recently released from the hospital after a deep depression. Naomi was having serious adopted child problems, being originally a Japanese-Filipino raised from birth by an American mother and a Jewish father and they had all been moving from country to country. What Naomi needed was a rebirthing! I texted Ann back, Take her along, it's a healing session.

My nephew Papo Pardo, 26 years old, Asian music major in the UP conservatory, maybe needed rebirthing too, having also been hospitalized for clinical depression and suicidal tendencies. Who knows, maybe the rebirthing that was a-borning was not just for lost adoptees but also for someone turning a new leaf, someone with a mother (or father) issue or even someone birthing a project. Bong remembered what he had been told about his birthing. His mother had not been ready for yet another child and Bong felt like a misfit as if snagged by an outstretched branch. In turn, Pinky said she was the fourth of six caesarian children and just wanted the vicarious experience of going through a birth canal.

That explained all those doctors and healers. The universe had even dropped the patients on our lap! The gall of me trying to take on such a group! When I need practical advice I always call on my friend Mariel Francisco who reads Steiner, Ken Wilber and all those saints and mystics. She can drive a car, teach literature, conduct a workshop, redecorate a condo, swim a channel, climb a mountain, ballroom dance and maybe drive a stake into a vampire's heart. She would put my fears to rest by ignoring them. But what were we going to do together?? I originally thought we would just move in unison but it had grown much bigger than that. Soon enough, Bong de la Torre, the shaman, took over and he knew exactly what to do.

We were going into the deep end of love. But where would we hold it? My husband had long decreed our home off-limits to "tomfoolery" into which category this event was sure to go. Immediately, I arranged to hold it at Rose Sison's ballroom dancing studio. The place was so light hearted and normal it could stand some voodoo.

It turned out that Dr. Ed and Dr. Joy Concepcion couldn't come after all because someone died. Steve Villaruz was giving a dance workshop. In their place the universe sent a stranger, Jeremy Alto, a Filipino with a strong angel energy who had lived in America all his life but had come back to live in his native land. (He couldn't bear the materialism of Manhattan's corporate jungle.) Kalimasada master Ollie, out of the blue, asked to take his newly-graduated daughter, Sheila. *Whoever was meant to be there would be there.* We didn't know how well the energies fitted together until the day itself.

Mariel came with a box of long colored cloths, plain and printed. They were powerful cloths because, for ten years, we had used them in rituals we had created. We had put the cloths up as cloud buntings, laid them out on the floor, danced with them, draped them over our bodies and used them to cover people going through catharsis. This time the cloths would be a womb.

Bong had the cloths knotted together to make a mandala on the floor. A mandala?! For me it was still a birth canal, no matter how circuitous, through which we would dance or crawl or slither our way. Its center would be the womb. There the wounded ones, Papo and Naomi, would be.

We all sat on the floor around the now coiled cloth. Bong possessed an authority that seemed to command time and space within the sacred circle. He had brought a nose flute and a drum, interacting to whose different rhythms made us connect to our inner core. Then we were asked to make self introductions and also to express, wordlessly, using body movement, what we expected to get out of this experience. Ann Wizer did deep breathing, as if trying to purge thoughts from her head, her arms making flapping motions like a bird trying to be free.

With my fingers I indicated the opening of my left eye, then the right eye then the third eye. Then a gesture of embracing all the people in the room and offering us all up to heaven. Everything was hushed as Papo knelt and bent very low, his forehead on the floor, connecting to the earth and touching base with his wound. Then he began an imaginary washing of his face and then his body.

Silence of the dance

The round finished, Bong divided us into groups of four that would move together. Julie Lluch exuded the most feminine energy of all as she moved with Rama on a deep soul level. She seemed to be trying to connect to his male energy in order to understand it and having some difficulty. No one was breaking the silence of the dance. It was much later that they stretched out hands to connect to Ollie and his daughter, who were part of their group.

The quartet of Mariel, Dr. Pinky, the returned-native Jeremy, and Papo seemed to have the dynamics of healers and their patients. It was easy to see in the pairings of Ann Wizer and Naomi, Wendy Regalado and me, mother-and-daughter interactions. Purposefully, Bong worked on the center, the womb of the mandala, first on Papo then on Naomi. His fingers were pointing to different directions, his palms scooping up and throwing out dirty energy or exhaling it to the floor to be dissipated.

We could feel the great outpouring of love as the group sent healing grace to the center. His right palm up, Ollie, standing like a deeply rooted tree, was a powerhouse of earth energy that grounded everyone.

A soft tuneless humming began. The lights were switched off. From individual energy we converged into a group energy, eggs again, floating in the amniotic fluid of the Divine Mother's womb, as in the beginning. Everything became very still as we shifted from temporal to eternal time. The humming flowed into the saddest Filipino lullaby... Sa ugoy ng duyan... over and over... as arms rocked Naomi... and then Papo... until Naomi ended up in her one, real, mother's arms. *Thus do we separate from the womb and experience the incarnated body. The flesh is a painful human condition because we have experienced wholeness before we came to earth. But the remembrance of the union of spirit and matter remains with us and the knowledge too that is possible to regain.* Others gathered to enclose Ann and her baby, the group embrace growing thicker and thicker as more bodies joined.

Then the ritual was over. People began to seek one another to hug and kiss and some to weep and it was beginning to get really corny.

I knew it was time for the coke and egg sandwiches.

THE LAST FULL MOON (UP Press) won the National Book Award for "Best Biography." All GCF Books are available at Fully Booked, Power Books Greenbelt 4, Megamall and Alabang; National Bookstore Shangri-La, Greenhills, Gloria 1, Greenbelt 1, Podium and Alabang; Popular Bookstore, Q.C. Solidaridad Bookstore Padre Faura; Datelines in Cubao Shoe Expo and lately in A Different Bookstore, all branches.

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MR. and Mrs. Esteban Urzola

Going bananas for each other

With their fathers involved in the same business, it was just a matter of time before Macris Soriano and Esteban Urzola met

STORY ON PAGE H2

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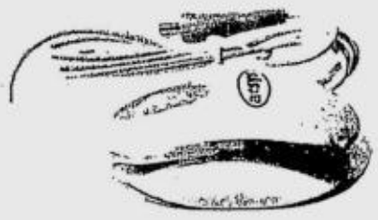

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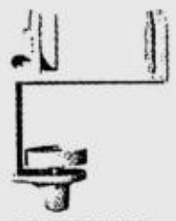
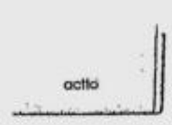


ACTTO MULTI-TAP HOLDER MTH-01

ACTTO CD/DISKETTE POCKET CDP-01



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Happy Mother's Day

For the woman who shaped you.

This Mother's Day, give the woman who loved and took care of you the most rewarding experience. Take her to any Ayala Mall and special treats will be given to her. It's the best way you can show her how much she means to you.

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THE COUPLE with the bride's family

THE GROOM'S family: Victor Urzola Herrera, Rocio Herrera de Urzola, Maria Cristina Soriano, Esteban Urzola Herrera, Victor Urzola Capella, Sergio Urzola Herrera, R.J. and Laura Maclang, Gabbi Rodriguez, Andres Esteban and Alexa Maclang

URZOLA-SORIANO NUPTIALS

Going bananas for each other

By Kristina Mijares
Contributor

MACRIS SORIANO'S father, Bobby, has been in the banana industry since the '70s. Esteban Urzola's father, Victor, was also in the banana sector of Dole for just as long.

When Victor was reassigned to Stanfilco, Davao, in 1999, he began a business relationship with Bobby that eventually brought the two families close.

But it was not until the summer of 2003 that the paths of Soriano and Urzola crossed when the latter was on vacation in Davao. A cross-continental love affair ensued.

Urzola still had a few years to go in his dentistry studies in Costa Rica, while Soriano had to remain in Davao as her daughter Gabbi was about to enter kindergarten.

The couple met when they can in various places—Costa Rica, Davao, San Francisco, Miami and Puerto Rico. In the summer of 2006, while driving down the Florida Keys, Urzola proposed by asking Soriano to start the wedding preparations.

On March 10, the glowing bride, in a simple but elegant Vera Wang gown, walked down the aisle, watched admiringly by family and close friends. Many of the guests came from as far away as Costa Rica, Colombia, Germany, Italy, Spain, Canada and the United States.

The ceremony at the Redemptorist Church in Davao was presided over by Fr. Rene Ocampo, an uncle of the bride. The internationally renowned children's choir Song Spell captivated everyone with its powerful repertoire of Italian songs.

Joyous

There was an outpouring of joyous emotions as the couple exchanged vows. After the pair was pronounced as husband and wife, both families welcomed them with open arms, extending warm wishes and heartfelt congratulations.

For the reception, Juliet Pamintuan transformed the Marco Polo Davao ballroom into "A Midsummer Night's Dream"-themed landscape. With Jing Puentespina's floral arrangements and Manny Yu's special lighting, the ballroom became an enchanted garden with soft blue lights, white trees filled with white orchids, and candlelit votives. The stunning visual effect took everyone's breath away.

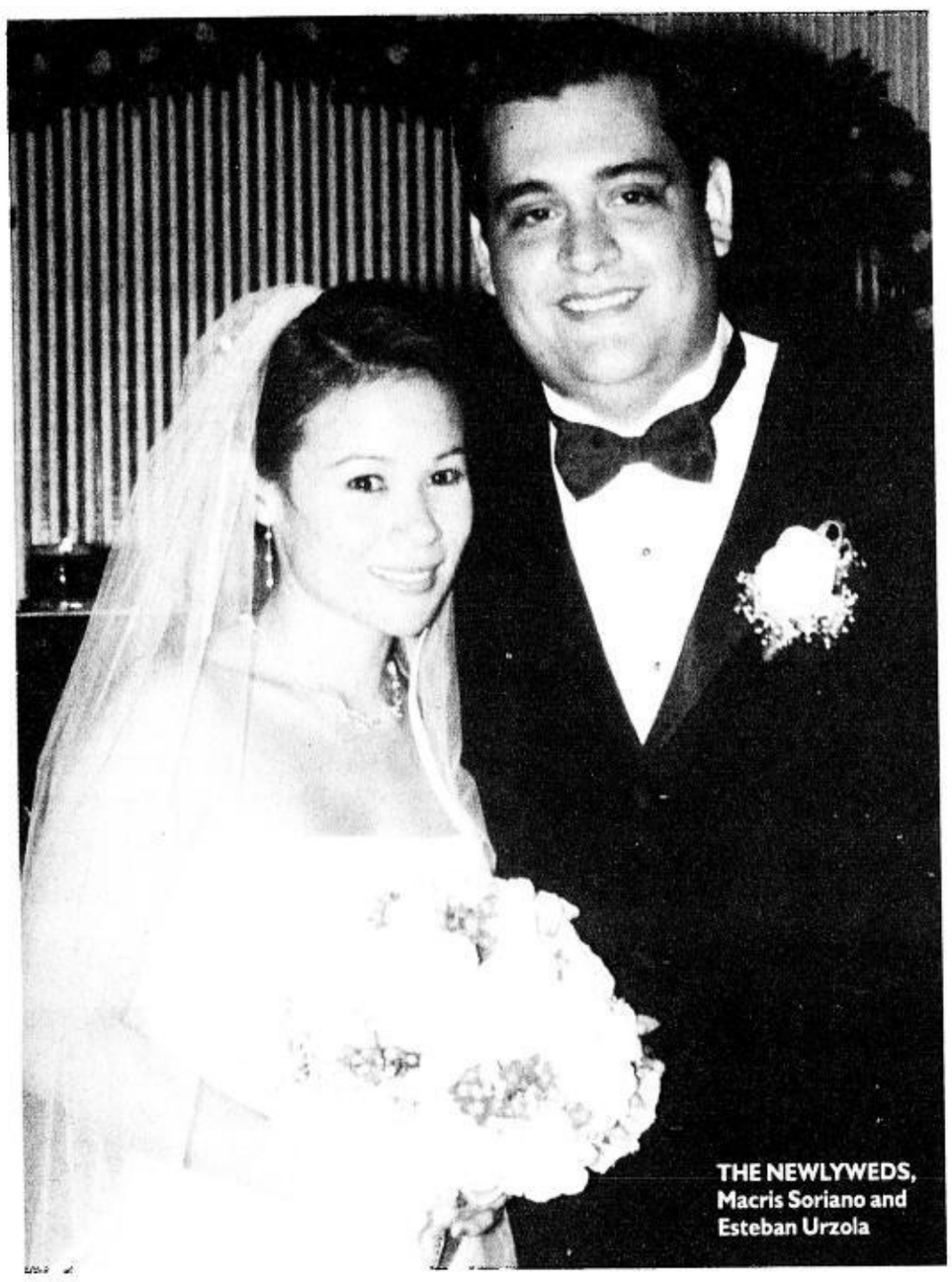
Chef Ed Tuason prepared a mouth-watering meal of Foie Gras, Smoked Pink Salmon, Crayfish, Scallops, Granite of Carrot, Sea Bass, and Prime Rib capped by a delectable array of desserts, pralines and friandises. Then the guests savored Boo Maramba's scrumptious wedding cake.

The newlyweds danced to their song "Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered" by Frank Sinatra, bringing tears to everyone's eyes. Proud fathers Bobby and Victor toasted the newlyweds.

Handsome and witty best man Victor Javier Urzola gave a rousing speech afterwards. Charming Sergio Urzola introduced the famous Latin band Onda Latina as the dancing began with the song "Dejame Entrar" by famed Colombian artist Carlos Vives.

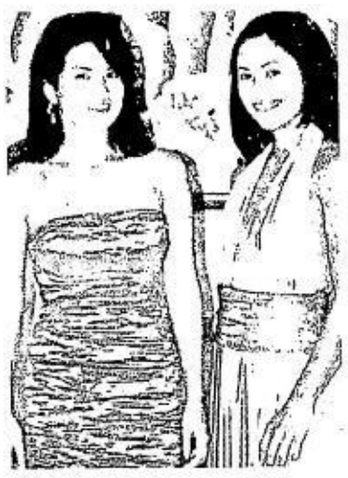
Guests eagerly danced to the Latin beats of salsa and merengue until the wee hours of the morning.

Radiant mothers of the newlyweds, Judy and Rocio, impressed guests with their dancing prowess.



THE NEWLYWEDS, Macris Soriano and Esteban Urzola

MR. and Mrs. Urzola with Adrian and Alberto



KRISTINA Mijares and Oudine Santos

PRINCIPAL sponsors with the bride and groom and their parents: Alicia Garcia, Mary de Leon, Bobby and Judy Soriano, bride and groom, Rocio and Victor Urzola, Edward Mijares and William Salom

An only daughter weds

CEBU CEBU
Jaime Picornell, son of Ana Rodriguez Picornell

ANA CONCEPCION "CHIQUI" GO AND Kris Emerson Lee were married on a bright Saturday afternoon at the St. Joseph Shrine in Mandaue City.

An elegant crowd expressed its appreciation as the bridal entourage marched to the altar, especially when those darling children came by in rustling colorful silk Chinese attire.

Chiqui is the only daughter of Ricardo and Vicenta "Babie" Go of the highly prestigious Sulpicio Go clan of Cebu. Their son Ryan is married to Genevieve Gaisano and they have three children—Bianca, Kyla and Benrick. The other son Ritchie remains single but not for long, the buzz insists.

Emerson is the son of Tony and Emery Lee, who were hands-on in the wedding preparations. Emery created the bridal gown, truly an elegant labor of love. Tony was thick into the physical arrangements in the church and in the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel where the reception was held.

The concelebrated nuptial Mass was officiated by Bishop John Du, Msgr. Roberto Alesna, Msgr. Adelito Abella and Fr. Eduardo Ventic.

Sponsors

The *padrinos* included Dr. Carlos Go, Benito Gaisano, Go Guang Hua, Roberto Dino, William Lim, Alfredo Go, Robert Kho Tian, Dr. Francisco Chio, Dr. Anthony Lim, Nelson Go, Antonio Yu and Victor Go.

Among the *madrinas* were Dr. Rafaelita Pelaez-Golez, Carmen Go, Cristina Dino, Letty Yu, Catherine Uy, Betty Kho, Patricia Lim, Marilyn Go, Encarnacion Go, Pamela Uy, Norma Uysiuseng, and Hearty Dy Lim who always comes to Cebu when Ric and Babie Go have celebrations.

Maids of honor were Eda Gaisano and Selina Guo and best men were Jacques Lee and R. Vincent Go. Bridesmaids Sharon Go, Prestine Uy, Richelle Panganiban, Jade Tao and Stacey Lim were escorted by groomsmen Tonyson Lee, Carlo Ang, Dick Yu, Johannes Chua and Mark Go.

Flower girls were Chiqui's favorite nieces Bianca and Kyla Go, Karylle Kho and Asia Sun. Her fave nephew, Benrick Go, held the rings; Ethan Sun the coins and Irek Yunam and Marcus Ting the bibles.

Attending the bridal couple during the nuptial rites, as secondary sponsors, were Benedict Sun and Raquel Yu, candles; Dave Ting and Larissa Ang, veil; Ryan and Genevieve Go, cord.

Sheila Go was lector. Alexandra Yap and Shieny Yu did the readings, Veronica Go the responsorial psalm and Ma. Josefina Tampon prayers of the faithful.

Beautiful music was rendered by the University of Cebu choir, specially during the Offertory procession. Prominent participants bearing gifts were:

Ari Lee and Marlyn Sy, candles; Dexter and Claribel Go, Nestor and Det-det Ma, flowers; Edward Ang, Jackson Kho, Mineliza Lee and Diana Ong, fruits; Kenneth and Ann Lee, Jerome Go, and Grace Lopez, wine and hosts; Enrique and Angelina Go, cruets and ciborium.

Distinguished guest

Close to 1,000 guests attended the reception, led by the most prominent of all, Francisco Benedicto, an exemplary Cebuano who has served his country well as ambassador to various countries and is now undersecretary of Foreign Affairs.

NEWLYWEDS Chiqui and Emerson Lee (center) with the bride's family: Ryan and Genevieve, Babie, Ricardo and Ritchie Go, and the children, Bianca, Kyla, Benrick

A luminous pagoda dominated the stage. There was an element of drama when Chiqui and Emerson made their appearance in this spectacular setting.

After the honeymoon, the couple settled in Beijing where Emerson holds an important job.

Relatives and close friends are now planning when and how to visit them. No problem about flights, Cathay Pacific having just increased daily flights from Cebu to Hong Kong to 11 times a week.

Eddie Kong, Cathay's man in Cebu, says the increase is not so much to lure tourists from the Visayas to HK but because of the number of foreign tourists wanting to come to Cebu.

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

SANTHUFF-YAMBOT

Steven Todd Santhuff and **Maria Vilma Yambot Santhuff** will renew their marriage vows on the 15th anniversary of their wedding on May 19 at the Rooftop of the Stone House Hotel on E. Rodriguez Avenue, QC. Rev. **Pastor de Mesa** will officiate at the renewal of the marriage vows. Vilma, who works in the International Trade Settlements Division of Citibank, is the youngest daughter of Mr. and Ms **Isagani Yambot**. Steve, a human resource manager of Halliburton, is the son of Mr. and Ms **Ronald Santhuff**. The Santhuffs have one son, **Ethan Chase**, 2, and live in Tampa, Florida.

GIBLIN-MERCADO

Michael Francis Giblin and **Genevieve "Geenee" LouSy Mercado** were wed recently in Jackson, California.

PELAYO-ORATE

Alan de Leon Pelayo, son of **Froilan** and **Rita Pelayo** of Kalibo, Aklan and Naga City, will wed **Marieta Romero Orate**, daughter of **Emmanuel** (deceased) and **Teresita Orate** of Naga City, on May 22 at the Holy Rosary Parish Church, Boracay Island, Malay, Aklan. Reception will follow at the Boracay Plaza Beachfront Beach Resort.

DAG DAG-ANG

Paul Ryan Tan Dag Dag, son of **John** and **Fe Dag Dag**, wed recently **Joyce Ang**, daughter of **Joseph** and **Josephine Ang**, at Camp John Hay, Manor Hotel, Baguio City.

The bride wore a design by **Leonard Co** of ecru organdy top waist cut, duchess sateen bouffant skirt, embroidered in dainty floral/fern patterns accentuated with mattegold sateen wrapped around a ribbon bow embellished with glass crystal nacre and beads.

EMILY'S POST

Emily Marcelo, daughter of Patrocinio Bulaong Aniag

Soldier boy has kept her dangling for 12 years

DEAR EMILY,

I'm 31 and I am in a 12-year relationship with my boyfriend. He is a soldier in the Army.

Last August, I found out he was involved with another girl and they had a relationship for nine months now.

This is the second time he has done this to me. The first one lasted for two years.

Despite all the pain, I still remain with him because, first, I love him so much. He actually is a nice guy, a very responsible person, very supportive etc., etc.

We are compatible in a lot of ways, and I really cannot afford to lose him. Second, I think he fools around to gain experience. Third, the girls are not better than me, so I am pretty confident they will not replace me.

We already have a marriage license that will expire soon. I really want to get married already. But I have so much pain right now because of the jealousy I feel toward his current "girl" whom I know he visits often.

My jealousy has led me to exchange text messages with the girl, which makes me suffer more.

Breaking up with my boyfriend is not an option. I really love him. But I want to regain my composure and restore my self-worth. Right now, I'm planning not to communicate with my boyfriend to give him space.

I just pray so hard to God to give me enough strength to do this.

JAY

You have had a relationship with this soldier boyfriend of yours for the past 12 years, you two have a marriage license soon to expire and he is still fooling around?

Either you are a sucker for pain or you just like guys in uniform.

Why is leaving him NOT an option? Is it because you already have an expiring marriage license? Do you rely on him for financial support?

Are you pregnant? Or are there kids already that are shackling you to him? What?

Twelve years is much too long to keep on suffering. And please stop sending text messages to the other woman.

You have no business accosting her because this is really between you and your gallivanting boyfriend.

She would not be there if he did not succumb to her. Keep your dignity and pride, puh-lease! Never allow the offending party to know you are suffering.

Why make it a double whammy for you?

Yes, give him plenty of space and time like—forever? Go away if you can. Get another job if possible. Do anything to get him out of your system. He is not the only fish in his dirty canal.

You are only 31 and you are throwing your life away by suffering for someone who seems to thrive in having multiple relationships.

If this is the life you want, fine. Accept him for what he is and stop bellyaching. However, if you think you deserve someone better who would appreciate you enough to make you happy for a long time—like the rest of your life—then... need I say more?

Life is too short, kid. Do not allow this creep to make it shorter!

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

We'll tell you a story on why the first instant misua from Nissin doesn't taste like instant because we need more than a paragraph to explain to you that we didn't create it instantly.

It all started in 1910, when Momofuko Ando, the inventor of instant ramen and the founder of Nissin was born. Orphaned as a child and sternly raised by his grandfather, Mr. Ando transacted business as a give-and-take affair; that is, if you take too much and give too little in return, you end up killing the other person and losing everything.

Nissin was founded on this win-win principle.

Hunger brought out the inspiration.

In the spring of 1958, post-war Osaka had been reduced to ashes. There was little to eat; food lines stretched around dark street corners. It was here that Mr. Ando saw people dazed with hunger, on their feet for hours, all for a bowl of steaming ramen. In two years' time, he created and distributed the first instant ramen from his backyard.

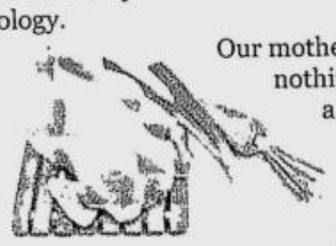
What started out as neighborhood fare ended up as one of the world's favorite meals for hungry people who can't wait.

From then on, Mr. Ando never stopped, inventing Nissin Cup Noodles in 1971 and other technological innovations in the instant food industry—the latest being the first Space Ramen in 2006.

Now the same Japanese spirit of innovation is being used to make the first instant misua from Nissin—a proudly Pinoy noodle—in Cup Noodle format.

Nissin has achieved a fusion of Pinoy taste and Japanese technology.

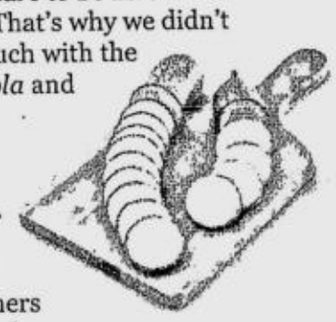
Distinctly Pinoy. Misua mismo.



We searched the local countryside, going as far as Batangas for the perfect misua. We tried everything from roadside eateries to gourmet restaurants—anything to capture this classic Pinoy rice noodle. We were looking for the right texture, thickness, color and the clean translucency of true misua.

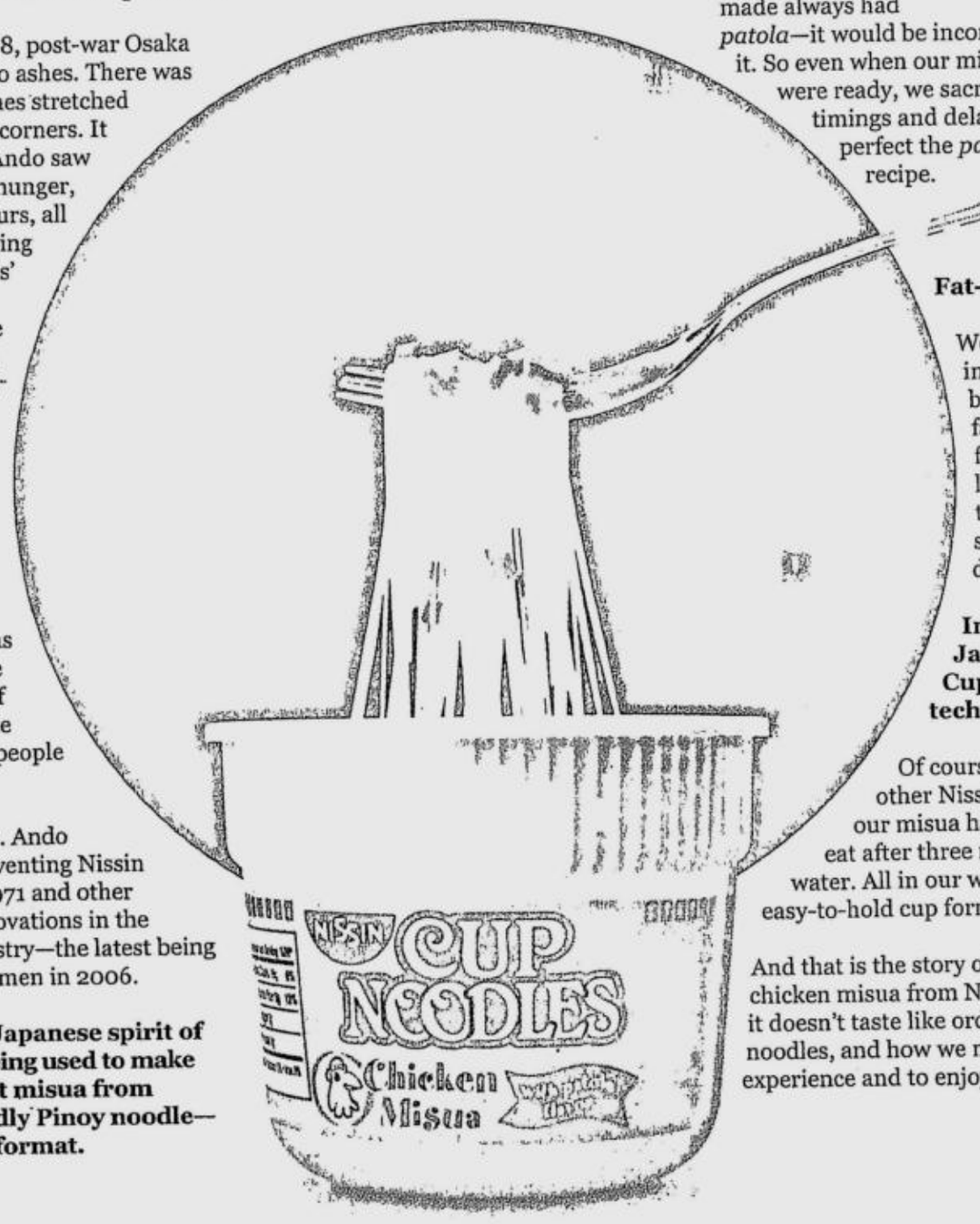
Chicken Misua for the soul.

Our mothers knew all along. There's nothing like chicken misua to calm a restless heart or to soothe an ailing soul. It has to be prepared with great love and care to be able to do this. That's why we didn't tamper much with the *sinaunang patola* and chicken mix.



Enhanced by *patola* flavor.

The traditional misua our mothers made always had *patola*—it would be incomplete without it. So even when our misua noodles were ready, we sacrificed launch timings and delays, just to perfect the *patola* recipe.



Fat-free.

We made our instant misua to be just like your favorite comfort food—refreshing, light and delicious to melt away stress or any day-to-day pain.

In the familiar Japanese Cup Noodle technology.

Of course, just like any other Nissin instant noodle, our misua had to be ready to eat after three minutes in boiling water. All in our world-famous easy-to-hold cup format.

And that is the story of the first instant chicken misua from Nissin, and how it doesn't taste like ordinary instant noodles, and how we made it for you to experience and to enjoy.

NISSIN™

Eat out and Shop with MOM at SM

Spend Mother's Day with your Super Mom at SM Supermalls.

What better way to say Happy Mother's Day than to celebrate it with your Super Mom at SM. Buy her a gift, eat out and enjoy the many activities lined up for her and you. With exciting events and promos, it's sure to be a fun day for Mom and the whole family!

May 13

Celebrate Mother's Day at SM

SM CITY NORTH EDSA | SM CITY FAIRVIEW | SM CITY MANILA
SM CITY SAN LAZARO | SM MEGAMALL | SM CITY STA. MESA
SM CITY BICUTAN | SM CITY SUCAT | SM CITY BACOOR
SM CITY SOUTHMALL | SM CITY DASMARIÑAS | SM CITY BATANGAS
SM CITY MARILAO | SM CITY PAMPANGA | SM CITY BAGUIO
SM CITY LUCENA | SM SUPERCENTER PASIG | SM CITY ILOILO
SM CITY DAVAO | SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO | SM CITY CEBU
SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA | SM CITY STA. ROSA
SM CITY LIPA | SM CITY CLARK | SM CITY BACOLOD
SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO | SM MALL OF ASIA

SM SUPERMALLS

Caricature for Moms in all SM Metro Manila malls

SM City North Edsa, SM City Fairview — May 13
SM Supercenter Valenzuela, SM City Sta. Mesa
SM City San Lazaro, SM City Manila, SM Megamall
SM City Bicutan, SM City Sucat, SM City Bacoor
SM Southmall, SM Supercenter Pasig

The "Thank You, Mom" Wall in all SM Metro Manila malls

May 13

Fabulous Moms on the Runway

Watch moms take on the catwalk as they model the latest fashion designs.
SM City Batangas, SM City Lipa, SM City Marilao — May 13
SM City Clark, SM Supercenter Molino, SM City Cebu

Cake and Cookie House Decorating Contest

Join the fun of making delicious treats!
SM City Baguio, SM City Clark, SM City Dasmariñas — May 13
SM City Marilao, SM City Pampanga

Mommy Make Over

SM City Manila — May 13
Manila Mom Make Over
SM Supercenter Valenzuela — May 13
SM City Cebu — May 13

Mother's Day Singing Contests

Mom takes center stage in this talent contest.
SM City Dasmariñas — May 13
SM City Sta. Mesa — May 13
Bida si Mommy, Diva si Mommy

Mother's Day Concerts and Musical Serenade

Serenade mom with beautiful music.
The Block, SM Southmall, SM City Manila — May 13
SM Supercenter Pasig, SM City Bacoor
SM City Fairview, SM City North Edsa
SM Supercenter Valenzuela — May 13
Mother's Day Musical
SM Southmall — May 13
Mother's Day Specials
SM City Baguio — May 19
Cool Nights, Warm Blends : Music Ambience
SM Supercenter Pasig — May 19 & 26
Songs for Moms
SM City North Edsa — May 13
UST Music Ensemble
The Quezon City Symphonic Band
SM City Manila — May 13
Mother's Day Woodwind Orchestra Concert
SM City Pampanga — May 13
Christian Bautista
SM City Iloilo — May 13
The Company
SM City Sucat — May 13
Jade Strings
SM City Bacolod — May 13
The West Negros Choral and Kulay Picata
SM City Clark — May 19
Gary Valenciano
SM City Baguio — May 19
Rachelle Ann Go with Jimmy Marquez
SM City Clark — May 19
Typecast Band
SM City Clark — May 21
Pinoy Dream Academy's Chad Peralta
SM City Baguio — May 26
Typecast Band

Mother's Day Specials

SM City Pampanga — May 13
Photos Du Monde "Portraits of Mom"
SM Supercenter Pasig — May 13
I Love My Mom Drawing Contest
SM City Iloilo — May 13
Iloilo Photographic Society Mother's Day
"The Ilonggo Mother": Photo Exhibit
SM City Lucena — May 13
"Alay kay Inay": Painting Exhibit
SM City Manila — May 13
Pose and Photo for a Mother
SM City Bacolod — May 13
Pampering Booths for Moms
SM City Davao — May 14
Mother and Daughter Look-alike Photo Contest
Judging and Announcement of Winners
SM Supercenter Valenzuela — May 13-15
Treats for Moms
SM City Sucat — May 13-31
Tips & Treats for Moms
SM City Bagulo — May 13
Lactum 100% Nutrition Caravan
SM Megamall — May 13
Mega Moms Mega Loved
SM Southmall — May 13
Mother's Day Special
SM Megamall — May 13
Mother's Day Off
SM City Lucena — May 13
The Cocina Argentina Passion for Flavor Mall Tour
Mother's Day Living Gallery
Greetings On-Air
SM City North Edsa — May 13
Celebrate Mother's Day only at SM City North Edsa
SM City Bacolod — May 13
Mom and Daughter Look-alike Contest Final Judging
SM City Cagayan de Oro — May 13
Mother and Daughter Look-alike Contest Grand Finals
SM City Cebu — May 13
Mom and Daughter Look-alike Contest
Presentation and Judging
SM City Sta. Rosa — May 14-17
Pampering Moms
SM City Sta. Rosa — May 19 & 20
Lactum Nutrition Mission Caravan
SM Supercenter Pasig — May 20 & 27
Mom and Me in a Bubble Photo Opportunity
SM City Baguio — May 22
Zonta Poster Making Contest
"Stop Violence Against Women"
SM City Baguio — May 24
Mrs. Baguio 2007 Talent Competition

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

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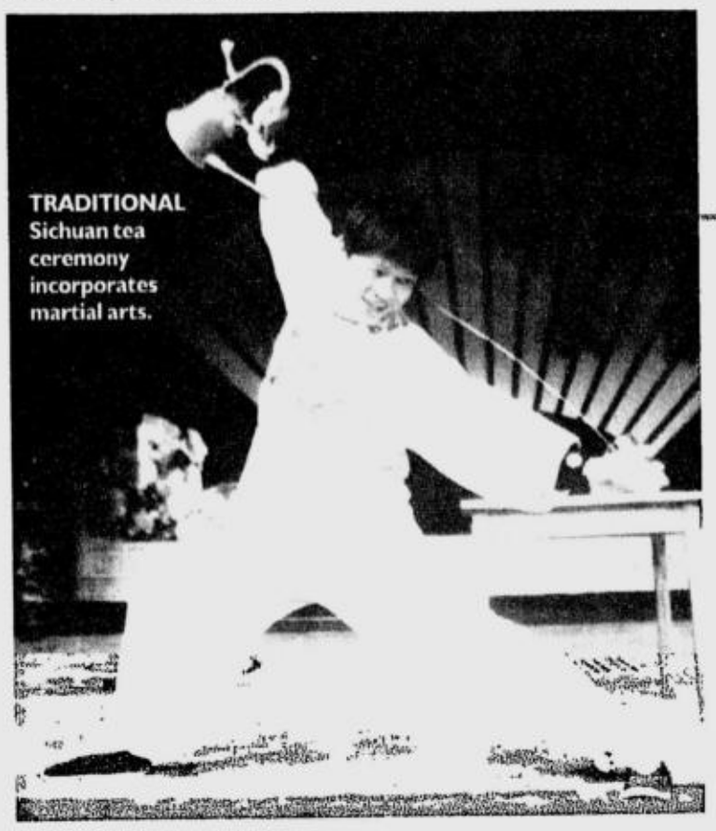


TRADITIONAL Sichuan tea ceremony incorporates martial arts.

Sichuan has more than just spicy food and giant panda

Robinsons Malls brings to Manila a medical-cultural group from the province known primarily for its cuisine

By Linda B. Bolido
Daughter of Adoracion Burgos

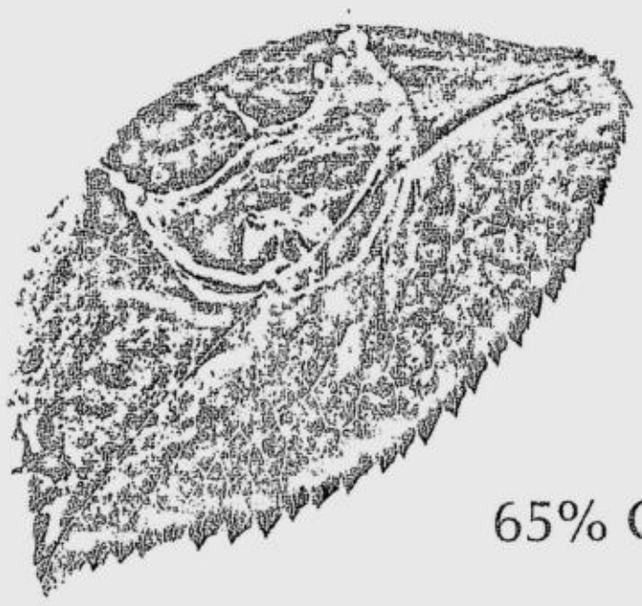
TO MANY FILIPINOS, Sichuan is distinct from other provinces of the People's Republic of China only because of

SICHUAN/ I4

THREE Chinese traditional doctors will hold consultations.

La Serendra
THE ASTON

A classic recipe for a fresher Two Serendra - just add water!



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Introducing The Aston at Two Serendra

Glorious water features. Reflecting ponds. A 50-meter competition pool.

Two Serendra offers resort-style living with its new high-rise section - *The Aston,* which boasts of unique features that provide a blend of fun and leisure. You'll find a children's paradise where a river boat is docked by the splash pool and a bridge leads to a tree house. *The Aston* is an excellent gathering spot and recreational place where family-friendly activities abound.

There's much to be discovered and enjoyed at The Aston at Two Serendra.
An invigorating experience just outside your door.

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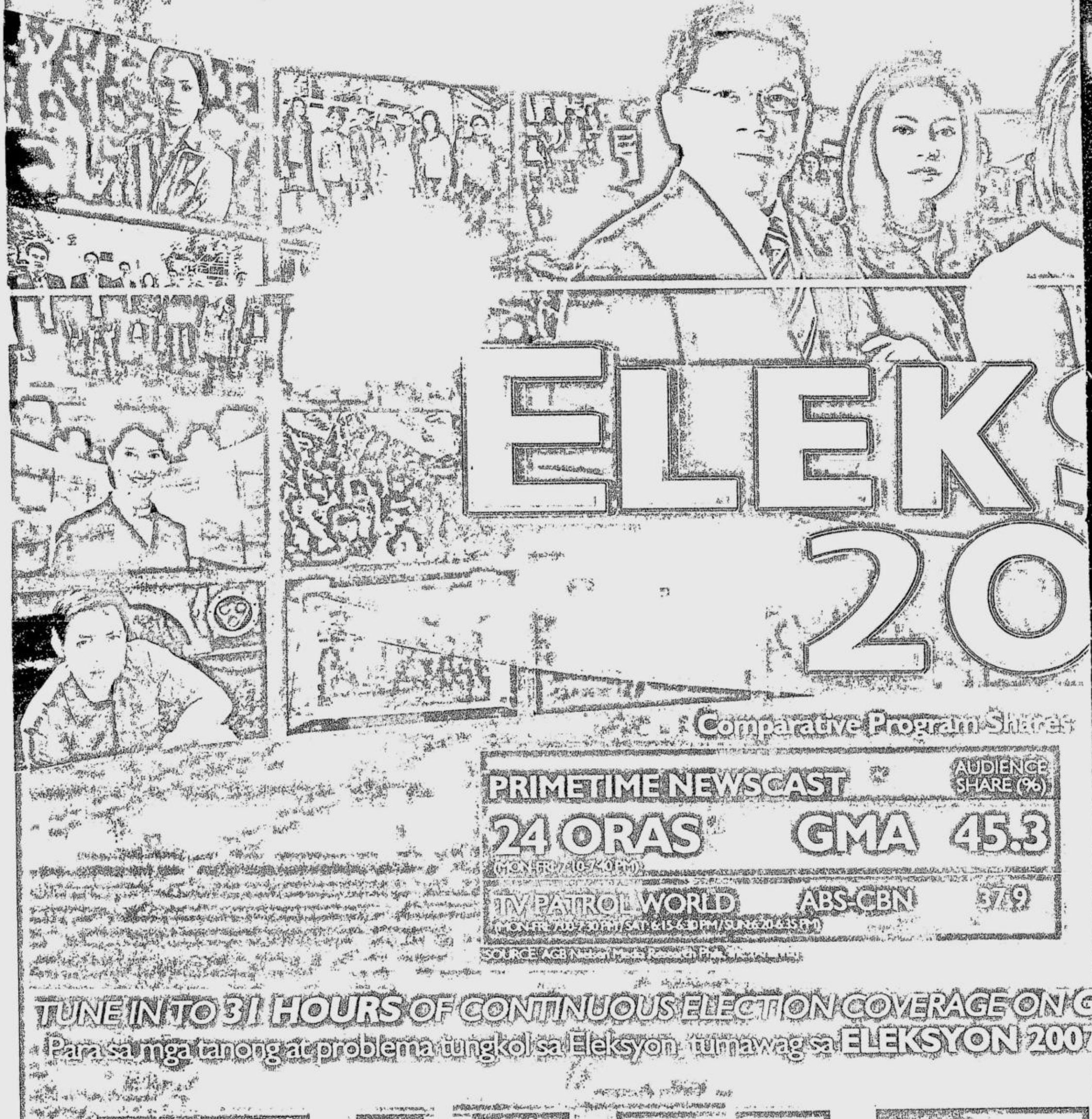

ELEK
20

Comparative Program Shares*

PRIMETIME NEWSCAST		AUDIENCE SHARE (%)
24 ORAS (MON-FRI 6:30-7:00PM)	GMA	45.3
TV PATROL WORLD (MON-FRI 6:30PM/SAT 6:45PM/SUN 7:45PM)	ABS-CBN	37.9

SOURCE: AGB NIELSEN PHILIPPINES

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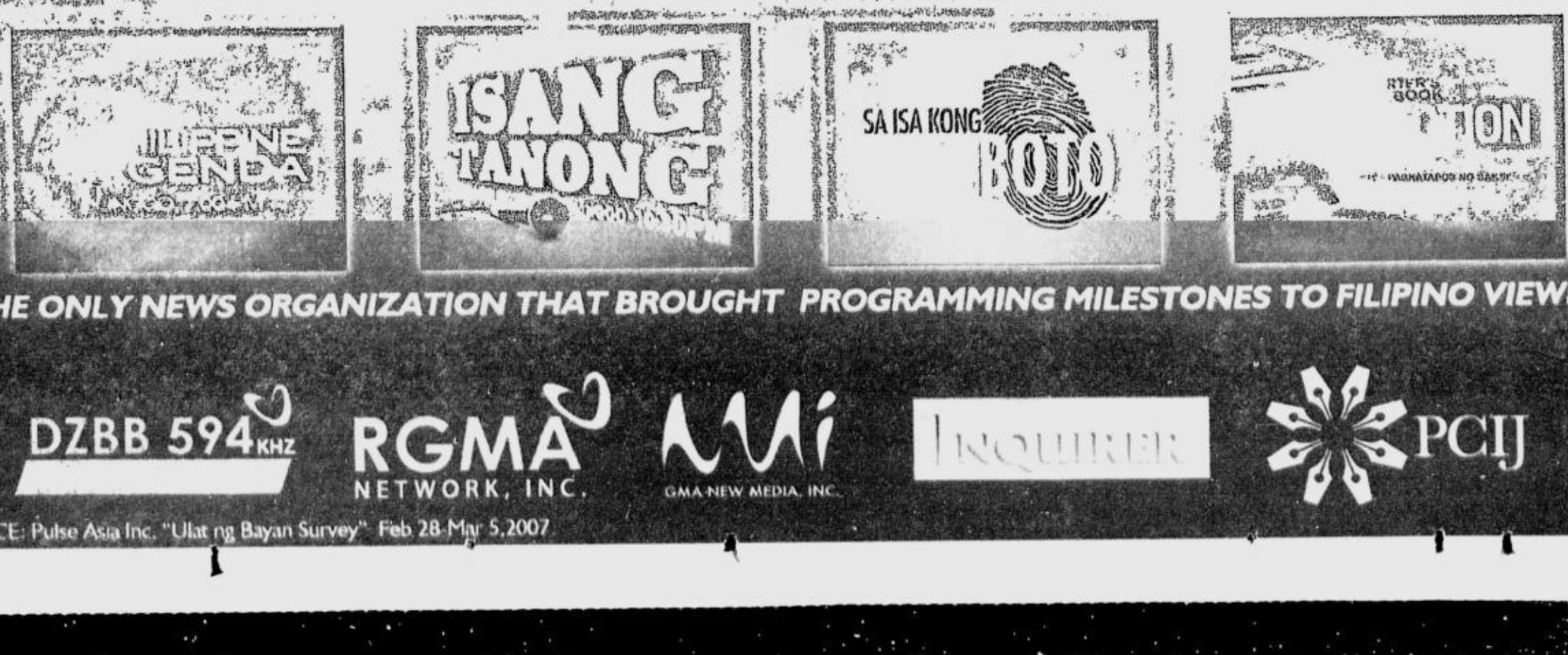

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*SOURCE: Pulse Asia Inc. "Ulat ng Bayan Survey" Feb 28-Mar 5,2007

ED NEWS ORGANIZATION

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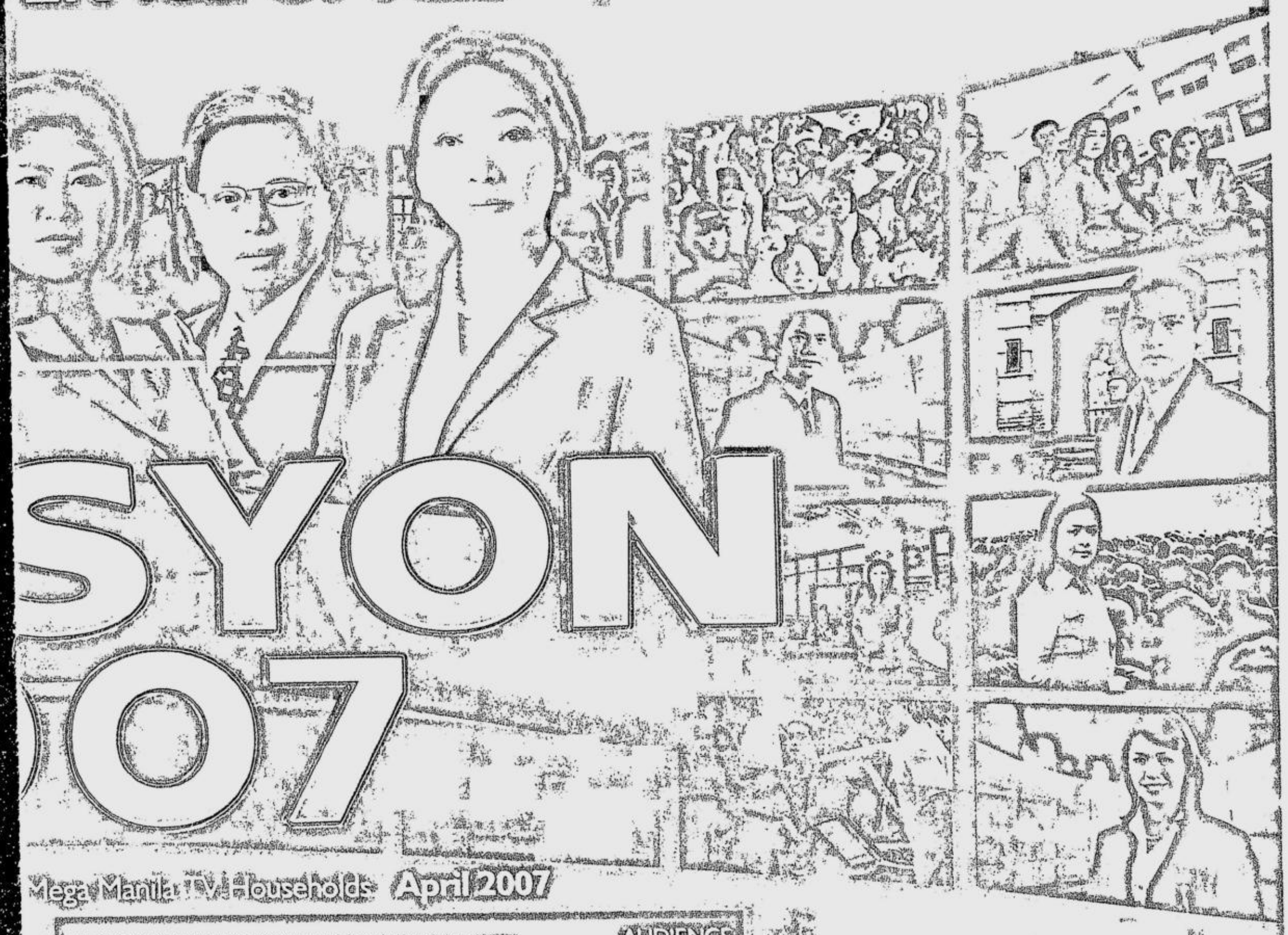

SYON
07

Mega Manila TV Households April 2007

LATE NIGHT NEWSCAST		AUDIENCE SHARE (%)
SAKSI (MON-THURS 12:00-12:30 AM / FRI 12:30-1:00 AM)	GMA	45.4
BANDILA (MON-THURS 1:30-1:45 AM / FRI 1:45-2:00 AM)	ABS-CBN	33.2

MA & QTV FROM MAY 14, 5:00 AM TO MAY 15, 12:00 NN

HOTLINE: 982-7777 (lines open from 6AM of MAY 14 to 12 NN of MAY 15)

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GMA

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Public Trust Media Group, Inc.

CMN
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AMA
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SMART

Sichuan has more . . .

From page 11

AUDIENCES will see vignettes of modern Peking opera in addition to traditional dance and music.

its cuisine—hot and spicy.

Other than that, they know very little about Sichuan in southwest China, one of the country's largest provinces and whose population is bigger than the Philippines'.

In fact, though almost everyone on the planet knows and is charmed by the black-and-white panda, very few are aware that the bamboo-loving Asian bear calls Sichuan, also known as "Land of Abundance," home.

Now Robinsons Malls and Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila, in cooperation with the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of Sichuan Province, will let Filipinos know a little bit of the culture and tradition of the region through The Sichuan Cultural Arts Festival that begins May 18.

The unique local civilizations of the province and its vicinity reportedly date back to at least the 15th century BC.

Culture and medicine

The festival, which is also cosponsored by the INQUIRER and Wave 89.1, features traditional cultural shows, consultations with Chinese traditional medical practitioners and Sichuan cuisine.

THE SICHUAN Cultural Arts Festival features traditional doctors, performers and chefs.

SICHUAN, like the rest of China, has a centuries-old culture.

In a press briefing, Nilo Mapa, general manager, Robinsons Malls, said the festival was part of the chain's goal to let customers "discover new things." He mentioned, among others, last year's Mad Science activity that sought to make science fun for children.

This month, he said, the chain was also participating in the annual observance of Heritage Festival Month, which has bamboo for its theme.

Asked why Sichuan, a province not as readily accessible as more urbanized parts of China, was chosen for the event, Frederick Go, president of Robinsons Land, said the Gokongwei group of companies had investments in the place so it was easy to arrange the medical and cultural visit. "They (the province) offered to send the [groups]," Go said. He added that the province had a rich cultural heritage and tradition.

People coming from the northern part of Metro Manila and nearby towns and provinces can enjoy the festival at Robinsons Galleria. At 2-4:30 p.m., May 18-20 and 23-24, Sichuan experts will hold medical consultations on internal and orthopedic medicine at the mall's fountain area.

The 45-minute, four-act cultural show that includes traditional Sichuan and modern Peking operas, Art of Tea, authentic Sichuan folk songs and dances will be presented May 18-20, 5 p.m., also at the fountain area.

Also beginning on May 18 is the two-week Sichuan food festival at Crowne Plaza's Xin Tian Di restaurant, according to Paul Rene Lee.

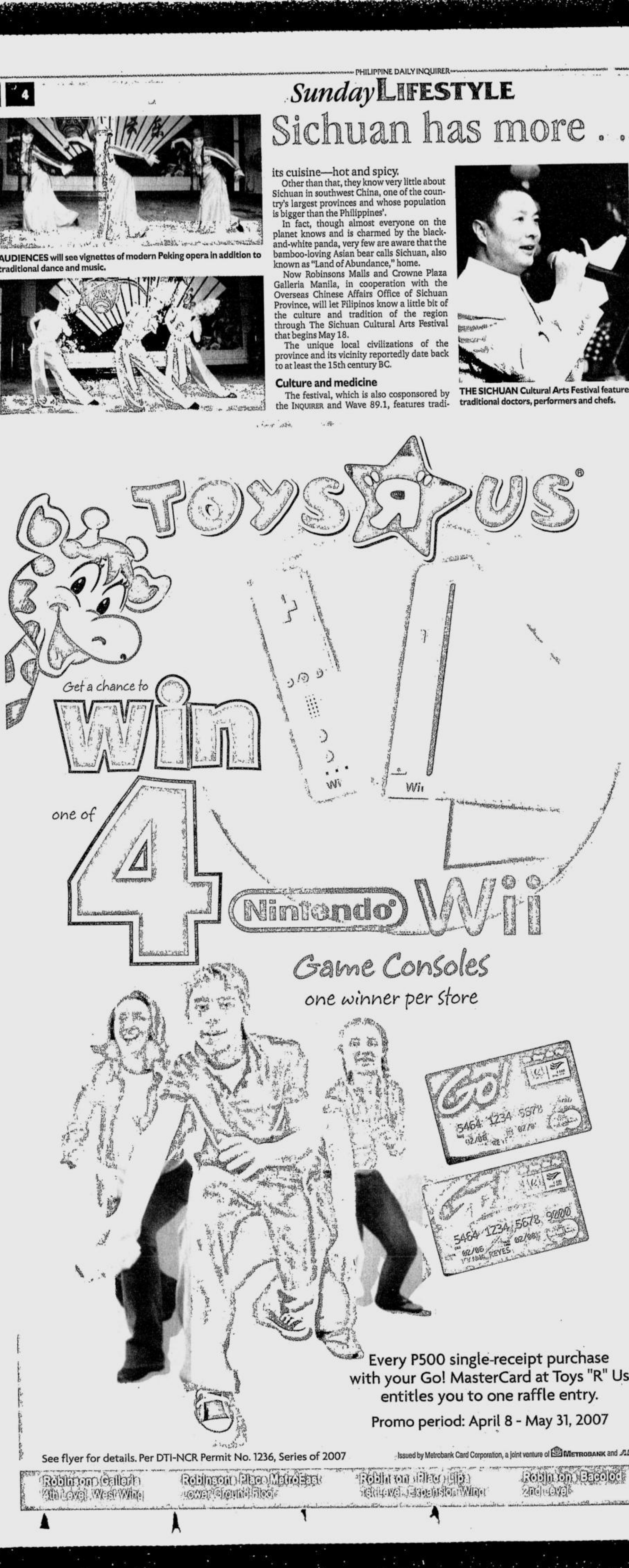
After the shows at Galleria, the Sichuan medical and cultural group moves to Robinsons Place Manila the following weekend, a chance for those in the southern part of Metro Manila and nearby towns and provinces to catch the festival.

Medical consultations on internal and orthopedic medicine will be held May 25-26, 2-4:30 p.m., at the Orosa Atrium. At 4 p.m., the cultural show will begin also at the Orosa Atrium. Featuring the Sichuan Opera Institute, the festival will also showcase the talents of visiting performers including Wei Yan, Ma Dilu, Chen Xu, Chen Yuanyuan, Tan Yuanyan, Yong Han and Li Yandong.

ROBINSONS customers can consult doctors on internal and orthopedic medicine.

SICHUAN opera will present "Face Changing."

THE PROVINCE'S folk songs and dances are also influenced by 15 minority groups.



SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2007

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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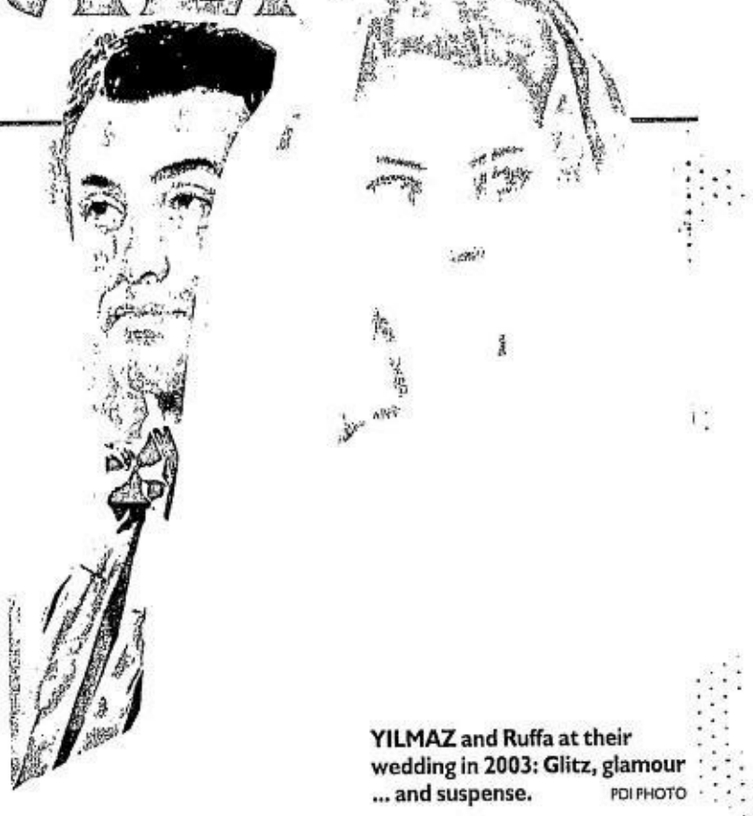
Ruffa, mom on TV today; pals unconvinced breakup is final



YILMAZ and Ruffa at their wedding in 2003: Glitz, glamour ... and suspense. PDI PHOTO

ANNABELLE on 7

ABUNDA on 2

WHEN RUFFA GUTIERREZ faces program host Boy Abunda on ABS-CBN's "The Buzz" this afternoon, she will be asked to elaborate on the reason she gave for deciding to end her four-year marriage to Turkish businessman Yilmaz Bektas.

"Cultural differences."

He'd like to know what those differences are, exactly, that could force apart "two people so obviously in love still," Abunda told INQUIRER Entertainment on Friday.

In short, the TV host said, "Why *ba talaga*?"

Network sources revealed also on Friday that Abunda had insisted on a pre-production meeting yesterday, Saturday, "to make sure the interview would be snappy, substantial."

Said the source: "Ruffa is articulate and generally level-headed, but the topic could make her emotional, so it's best that both subject and interviewer both know beforehand how the on-air conversation should proceed."

'Ninang' Wilma

On the rival GMA 7, Wilma Galvante, senior vice president for Entertainment and a *ninang* (principal sponsor) at the Bektas' wedding on March 25, 2003, told INQUIRER that Annabelle Rama's scheduled spot on "Showbiz Central," also today, would be a "no-holds-barred" interview.

Although Ruffa, one of the two main protagonists in the story at hand is going on "The Buzz," Galvante is confident "Showbiz Central's" would be the better presentation.

She explained: "We had exclusive rights to the TV coverage of the wedding. For the first part of the segment [on Ruffa-Yilmaz], we will show shots of that ceremony, along with behind-the-scenes footage."

Among those choice shots are "Annabelle crying and Yilmaz announcing that Ruffa was pregnant, by dangling a pair of baby boots."

It was a "beautiful" ceremony, Galvante noted. "Everyone wanted [the marriage] to last forever."

The wedding had all the elements of a grand event—big-name stars, glamour, glitz, even suspense. Galvante recounted: "We weren't sure at the time if it would push through ... if Yilmaz would arrive [from Turkey]."

Spontaneity factor

The second part of the feature, Galvante said, would be the sit-down interview with Annabelle. No pre-prod meeting. "She said she would answer questions only on the show, so they would be spontaneous—she didn't want the interview to sound scripted."

Since today is Mother's Day, Galvante said, Annabelle—whose son Raymond is one of the show hosts—would speak on the "annulment" issue from the point of view of a concerned mom. However, the TV exec said, in her conversation with Annabelle, it was obvious that, "at the end of the day, Ruffa's wishes would prevail."

"Showbiz Central" would pull out all the stops Galvante vowed. "*Pipigain namin ito*."

Curiously, many of Ruffa's pals are confounded.

"I don't think it's the end," one close friend said. "I feel it in my gut—they will reconcile. It seems to be just another spat, only this one's major. As in, it will require a lot of wooing on Yilmaz's part."

Neutral ground

The friend added: "Before this happened, precisely because they kept quarreling, I know for a fact that they were planning to set up house in Spain—some sort of neutral ground. Maybe this plan will be put on hold but, I don't think, entirely scrapped."

Since the story broke early this week, after Ruffa's reportedly distraught call to a journalist-friend, the tabloids have echoed the friend's sentiment.

Said one headline: "Ruffa *at* Yilmaz, *noon pa man*, on-off *na ang paghihiwalay*!" (Exclama-

RUFFA/J2

ALI'S husband Omar Bsaies is Tunisian-born. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

WILMA GALVANTE

DONITA ROSE

RANDY DELLOSA

Show biz counselor spots flaws in statement

Ruffa, mom on TV today; pals . . .

From page J1

tion point not ours.)

Said another: "Ruffa, *babalikan agad ni* Yil maz."

And another: "Ruffa, Yilmaz *magkakabalikan*."

"*Kilala ko si* Yilmaz," Jessica Rodriguez, another friend of Ruffa's, was quoted as saying. "He's obsessed with Ruffa."

In one more sober report, comedian Tessie Tomas—married for 13 years to British marine biologist Roger Pullin—offered Ruffa a piece of advice, albeit unsolicited: "All Filipinas marrying foreigners should be fully prepared to embrace the whole man—his personality, upbringing, heritage, the whole package."

Is he worth it?

Actress/radio host Ali Sotto, sought out by INQUIRER Entertainment, gave some precious insights.

"Cultural differences make the marriage interesting," Sotto, married 10 years now to Tunisian-born diplomat Omar Bsaies, said. "It gives the union more character ... spices it up."

When push comes to shove, Sotto pointed out, "The woman should decide: Is the man worth fighting for? *Ang babae ang nagdadala ng pagsasama.* If a woman says '*ayoko na*' then that's the end of it. As it is, it takes effort to make any relationship work—more so in the face of cultural differences."

She doffed her hat to Ruffa in one aspect, Sotto said. "She converted to Islam; I didn't. Fortunately for me, this was never an issue [between Omar and me]. We just always have lengthy discussions about faith."

She continued: "[If we insist] on analyzing what happened to [Ruffa and Yilmaz], we have to break down this vague concept: Is it conflict in faith or in careers? I, for one, would leave my work here to go with my husband to Madrid, his new posting, in October."

It wasn't her intention to speculate, Sotto said. "We don't sleep between two people. As for me, I'm older now and, therefore, more forgiving and accepting. Not to say my husband and I didn't have issues. He had to learn to tolerate the smell of *bagoong* and *tuyo*."

Best friend's view

Ruffa's best friend Donita Rose said she was "mad when I first heard."

Donita recalled that the subject had come up a few times, "but we never ... really discussed it," as there were always other people around.

She recalled: "I've seen them during the toughest times. I know Ruffa to be someone who says things out of anger. A lot of times, *pinapagalitan ko siya*. I'd tell her, 'Don't talk to your husband like that.' This (fighting) has been going on for quite some time now. I always tell Ruffa that [she should] never say that word—annulment. But she just smiles and ignores me."

There were times, Donita said, when she would get so affected when the couple quarreled. "Yes, even if Ruffa herself doesn't cry. I remember her telling me once, 'OA *ka naman*.' I take marriage very seriously. There's a ripple effect when a marriage doesn't work out, especially when there are kids involved."

Last Tuesday, Ruffa and she had a "crying session," Donita said. "She explained everything to me. We hugged and cried and then hugged some more. I told her that she's gotten through many trials before so there's no reason she couldn't get through this one. I told her to forgive, even if it's the other party who's at fault ... not to hold any bitterness in her heart. [But] Ruffa is very independent-minded. The best thing a friend could do for her right now is to just be there for her."

Professional counsel

When it comes to inter-cultural unions, said Dr. Randy Dellosa, a relationship counselor and resident psychologist on "Pinoy Big Brother," special emphasis should be given on premarital counseling.

This would help the couple thresh out major issues, he said: "Accept differences, appreciate and develop similarities and common interests, compromise on areas of conflict."

Asked for his opinion on situations similar to that of the Bektases, Dellosa said: "Before tying the knot, the parties should be able to [iron out] all major concerns—which can involve everything from sex to religious practices."

A possible problem area could be brought about by "divergent cultural beliefs, specifically on bigamous and polygamous relationships," the counselor stressed.

When big problems arise, he said, "Counseling is vital because the couple, [when] too emotionally enmeshed ... cannot see things objectively." A counselor would provide a neutral perspective.

Conflict arises when "one or both parties prove unwilling to adapt and adjust."

In Yilmaz and Ruffa's case, Dellosa offered, there's "double pressure." He explained: "They're celebrities. The public was expecting them to live happily ever after. Yilmaz was perceived as a knight-in-shining armor, Ruffa as a fairy-tale princess."

Inconsistencies

Dellosa noted "inconsistencies" in the statement earlier issued by the couple.

"They said they still deeply loved each other and were working things out. Still they're sure about separating."

The counselor asserted: "It takes two to tango. I think Ruffa and Yilmaz are dancing to different tunes."

Two words from the pro: "Assimilation and acculturation. Assimilation is when someone becomes part of his partner's culture. Acculturation is when someone gives up old ways and adopts new ones."

The ideal is for Ruffa and Yilmaz to become more Turkish, or more Pinoy. "They can weather this, if they learn to dance to the same tune or learn new steps."

Reports from Bayani San Diego Jr. and Marinel R. Cruz

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3 28 WEEKS LATER MTRCB: R-13 12:40 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
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TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS
EVERY MONDAY DANCE NIGHT 7:00 PM
May 19, 2007 DAVE ELQUERO is Bossa Breeze w/ MYMP 7:30 PM
May 31, 2007 RJ Jimenez 8:30 PM
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CONDEMNED 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30
LUCKY YOU 12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
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SPIDERMAN 3 12:15 / 3:10 / 6:05 / 9:00
SM MALL 5
1 28 WEEKS LATER 12:05 / 2:15 / 4:25 / 6:35 / 8:45
2 SPIDERMAN 3 12:00 / 2:40 / 5:20 / 8:00
3 SPIDERMAN 3 12:40 / 3:20 / 6:00 / 8:40
4 ANG CUTE NG INA MO 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
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Min. Bid Price : 12,100,000 00

ITEM 2a - Residential / commercial
Lot Area: 683 sqm.
Lot 3706-B Don Domingo, Balzain, Tuguegarao City
Min. Bid Price : 11,050,000 00

ITEM 2b - Residential
Lot Area: 700 sqm.
Lot 3707-G Don Domingo, Balzain, Tuguegarao City
Min. Bid Price : 3,700,000 00

ITEM 03 - Residential Lot W/ Fully Depr. Res'L Bldg.
Lot Area: 2,030 00 sqm.
Lot 3772-D & 3772-C, Along National Highway, Bo Ruyu
Market Value: 12,200,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 10,000,000 00

ITEM 4 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 3,633 00 sqm.
Lot 2854-D Calog Sur, Abulug, Cagayan
Market Value: 183 000 00
Min. Bid Price : 146 000 00

ITEM 5 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,816 00 sqm.
Lot 3074-F Calog Sur, Abulug, Cagayan
Market Value: 100,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 75,000 00

ITEM 6 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,625 00 sqm.
Floor Area: 54.00 sqm.
Lot 2957 Calog Sur, Abulug, Cagayan
Market Value: 92,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 69 000 00

ITEM 7 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 4,073 00 sqm.
Lot No. 1048 Landlocked, Sta. Filomena, Abulug, Cagayan
Market Value: 102,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 66,000 00

ITEM 8 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,006 00 sqm.
Floor Area: 297 00 sqm.
Lot 13-C-3-A Iringan, Allacapan, Cagayan
Market Value: 2,414,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 1,690 000 00

ITEM 9 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,369 00 sqm.
Floor Area: 378 00 sqm
Lot 5002 Iringan, Allacapan, Cagayan
Market Value: 1,019,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 968 000 00

ITEM 10 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 699 00 sqm.
Floor Area: 249 00 sqm.
Lot 6-E-3-P Centro, Allacapan, Cagayan
Market Value: 819,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 737,000 00

ITEM 11 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 25,901 00 sqm.
Lot 647 Cabaggaoan(Now) Silagan, Allacapan, Cagayan
Market Value: 155,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 132,000 00

ITEM 12 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 20,000.00 sqm.
Lot 2 Binubungan, Allacapan, Cagayan
Market Value: 140,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 105,000 00

ITEM 13 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,662.00 sqm.
Lot B Landlocked, Maluyo, Allacapan, Cagayan
Market Value: 66,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 46 000 00

ITEM 14 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 9,970 00 sqm.
Lot 44, 4339, 4342, 4357 Minanga, Aparri, Cagayan
Market Value: 1,249,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 687,000 00

ITEM 15 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 229,648.00 sqm.
Lot 1 & 2 Paruddung Norte (Now) Caculluan, Apam, Cagayan
Market Value: 689,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 517,000 00

ITEM 16 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 7,949 00 sqm.
Lot 4077 Bufala Norte, Aparri, Cagayan
Market Value: 199 000 00
Min. Bid Price : 149,000 00

ITEM 17 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 3,856 00 sqm.
Lot 3579-A-2-A Nat'L Rd. Pattung, Aparri, Cagayan
Market Value: 162,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 130,000 00

ITEM 18 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 48,106 00 sqm.
Lot 3626 Paruddung Norte (Now) Caculluan, Aparri, Cagayan
Market Value: 144,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 108 000 00

ITEM 19 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 622.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 138 00 sqm.
Lot 5235-C Nanapattan, Aparri, Cagayan
Market Value: 107 000 00
Min. Bid Price : 91,000 00

ITEM 20 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,015 00 sqm.
Floor Area: 58.00 sqm.
Lot 6110-A Binalan, Aparri, Cagayan
Market Value: 63,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 41,000 00

ITEM 21 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 5,300 00 sqm.
Lot 3402-A Zinarag(Now) Bakling, Aparri, Cagayan
Market Value: 53,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 40,000 00

ITEM 22 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 6,345 00 sqm.
Lot 4445-H Binalan, Aparri, Cagayan
Market Value: 19,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 14,000 00

ITEM 23 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 23,970.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 172.00 sqm.
Lot 5438 Sitio Nanabuan- Zitanga, Ballesteros, Cagayan
Market Value: 3,273,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 2,455,000 00

ITEM 24 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 306 00 sqm.
Floor Area: 121.00 sqm.
Lot 1495 Cabuluan East, Ballesteros, Cagayan
Market Value: 590,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 443,000 00

ITEM 25 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,850 00 sqm.
Floor Area: 86 00 sqm.
Lot 4131 Ammubuan, Ballesteros, Cagayan
Market Value: 416,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 312,000 00

ITEM 26 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 26,289 00 sqm.
Lot 6932 Baran, Ballesteros, Cagayan
Market Value: 198,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 149,000 00

ITEM 27 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,427 00 sqm.
Lot 6204-I Fugu, Ballesteros, Cagayan
Market Value: 143,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 107,000 00

ITEM 28 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2,800 00 sqm.
Lot 728 Cabanin East, Ballesteros, Cagayan
Market Value: 140,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 105,000 00

ITEM 29 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 3,131 00 sqm.
Floor Area: 99 00 sqm.
Lot 3121 Sta. Cruz, Ballesteros, Cagayan
Market Value: 140 000 00
Min. Bid Price : 91,000 00

ITEM 30 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 6,122 00 sqm.
Lot No. 1151 Landlocked Cabanlan West, Ballesteros, Cagayan
Market Value: 122,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 85,000 00

ITEM 31 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,650 00 sqm.
Floor Area: 107 00 sqm.
Lot 6390 Nararagan, Ballesteros, Cagayan
Market Value: 96,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 72,000 00

ITEM 32 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 912 00 sqm.
Floor Area: 83 00 sqm
Lot 868 Cabanlan West, Ballesteros, Cagayan
Market Value: 94,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 71,000 00

ITEM 33 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,823 00 sqm.
Lot 1426 Cabuluan West, Ballesteros, Cagayan
Market Value: 91,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 68,000 00

ITEM 34 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,550.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 95 00 sqm.
Lot 980 Cabantan West, Ballesteros, Cagayan
Market Value: 99,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 64 000 00

ITEM 35 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 6,146 00 sqm.
Lot 6285 Nararagan, Ballesteros, Cagayan
Market Value: 43,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 30,000 00

ITEM 36 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 713.00 sqm.
Lot 6405 Landlocked Zitanga Ballesteros, Cagayan
Market Value: 36,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 25,000 00

ITEM 37 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 904.00 sqm
Lot 864 Cabantan West, Ballesteros, Cagayan
Market Value: 27,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 19 000 00

ITEM 38 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 5,000 00 sqm.
Lot 8-K-2 Mala Weste, Buguey, Cagayan
Market Value: 110,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 77 000 00

ITEM 39 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 14,308 00 sqm.
Floor Area: 130 00 sqm
Lot 2579-E Brgy. Road, Mabuno, Gattaran, Cagayan
Market Value: 377,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 302,000 00

ITEM 40 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 5,395 00 sqm.
Floor Area: 121 00 sqm.
Lot No. 1481 Magsaysay St., Centro, Sta. Ana, Cagayan
Market Value: 320,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 208 000 00

ITEM 41 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 8,054 00 sqm.
Lot 512 Nat'L Rd. Aguguican, Gattaran, Cagayan
Market Value: 254,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 191,000 00

ITEM 42 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 5,486 00 sqm.
Lot 114-F-2 Landlocked Poblacion, Gattaran, Cagayan
Market Value: 274,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 151,000 00

ITEM 43 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 9,115.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 88 00 sqm.
Lot 2079 Capiddigan, Gattaran, Cagayan
Market Value: 189,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 132,000 00

ITEM 44 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 9,448 00 sqm.
Floor Area: 80.00 sqm.
Lot 174-C Landlocked Cutill, Gattaran, Cagayan
Market Value: 188,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 123,000 00

ITEM 45 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,114.00 sqm
Floor Area: 78 00 sqm.
Lot 937-A-2 Cutill, Gattaran, Cagayan
Market Value: 72,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 47,000 00

ITEM 46 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 5,000 00 sqm
Lot 1760-B Palagao Sur, Gattaran, Cagayan
Market Value: 63,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 44,000 00

ITEM 47 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 5,000 00 sqm
Lot 1760-A-1 Palagao Sur, Gattaran, Cagayan
Market Value: 50,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 35,000 00

ITEM 48 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 3,652 00 sqm
Lot 1005-A Calaoagan, Bassil, Gattaran, Cagayan
Market Value: 32,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 24,000 00

ITEM 49 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,760 00 sqm
Lot 2295 Torres St., Gonzaga, Cagayan
Market Value: 484,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 387,000 00

ITEM 50 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 25,471 00 sqm
Lot-C Batangan Gonzaga, Cagayan
Market Value: 280,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 210,000 00

ITEM 51 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 2,731 00 sqm
Lot 37 Ipil, Gonzaga, Cagayan
Market Value: 191,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 153,000 00

ITEM 52 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 6,694 93 sqm
Lot 11 Ammunitan, Gonzaga, Cagayan
Market Value: 127,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 89,000 00

ITEM 53 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 230 00 sqm
Lot 11 Ipil, Gonzaga, Cagayan
Market Value: 37,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 31,000 00

ITEM 54 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm
Floor Area: 151 00 sqm
Lot No. B-1-A Lalafugan, Lal-Lo, Cagayan
Market Value: 974,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 828,000 00

ITEM 55 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 303 00 sqm.
Floor Area: 179.00 sqm.
Lot 291 Maxingal, Lal-Lo, Cagayan
Market Value: 464,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 394,000 00

ITEM 56 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 313.50 sqm.
Floor Area: 118 00 sqm.
Lot 547-A-2 Maxingal(Now) San Jose, Lal-Lo, Cagayan
Market Value: 334,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 284,000 00

ITEM 57 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 3,680 00 sqm
Lot No. 2846 Brgy. Rd. Bagu, Pamplona, Cagayan
Market Value: 166,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 125,000 00

ITEM 58 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,020 00 sqm.
Lot 4195 Balingt, Pamplona, Cagayan
Market Value: 26,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 21,000 00

ITEM 59 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,605 00 sqm.
Lot 1393 Maguling, Piat, Cagayan
Market Value: 32,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 21,000 00

ITEM 60 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,600 00 sqm.
Lot 307 Nanungaran, Rizal, Cagayan
Market Value: 34,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 29,000 00

ITEM 61 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 7,351 00 sqm.
Lot 649 Iluru, Rizal, Cagayan
Market Value: 33,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 25,000 00

ITEM 62 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 3,509 00 sqm.
Lot 731 Nat'L Rd. Tangatan, Sta Ana, Cagayan
Market Value: 232,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 185,000 00

ITEM 63 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,250 00 sqm.
Lot No. 1481 Magsaysay St., Centro, Sta. Ana, Cagayan
Market Value: 188,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 150,000 00

ITEM 64 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 8,355 00 sqm.
Lot 65 Punta, Sta. Ana, Cagayan
Market Value: 210,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 147,000 00

ITEM 65 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,247 00 sqm.
Lot 1502 Undeveloped Rd. Diora Site, Sta. Ana, Cagayan
Market Value: 125,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 100,000 00

ITEM 66 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,248 00 sqm.
Lot 1043 Diora Site, Sta. Ana, Cagayan
Market Value: 100,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 80,000 00

ITEM 67 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,249 00 sqm.
Lot 1042 Undeveloped Rd. Diora Site, Sta. Ana, Cagayan
Market Value: 100,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 80 000 00

ITEM 68 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 547.00 sqm.
Lot 639 Brgy. Rd. Casambalangan, Sta. Ana, Cagayan
Market Value: 55,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 44,000 00

ITEM 69 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,000 00 sqm.
Lot 522-A Casagan, Sta. Ana, Cagayan
Market Value: 35,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 28,000 00

ITEM 70 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 285 00 sqm.
Lot 596-C Brgy. Rd. Tangatan, Sta. Ana, Cagayan
Market Value: 29,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 23,000 00

ITEM 72 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 4,754 00 sqm.
Lot 1938 Simpatuyo, Sta. Teresita, Cagayan
Market Value: 165,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 108,000 00

ITEM 73 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 742.00 sqm.
Lot 2555 Buyon, Sta. Teresita, Cagayan
Market Value: 37,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 30,000 00

ITEM 74 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 2,183 00 sqm.
Lot 1890 Natappian, Solana, Cagayan
Market Value: 76,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 53,000 00

ITEM 075 - Industrial Lot/ Warehouse
Lot Area: 21,152 00 sqm.
Lot 994, Along National Highway Barrio Lingu
Market Value: 10,000,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 9,000,000 00

ITEM 076 - Vacant Residential/Industrial Lot
Lot Area: 11,403 00 sqm.
Lot 1070-B Barrio Nagalisan, Market Value: 2,500,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 2,250,000 00

ITEM 77 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 79,226 00 sqm.
Lot 588 Mambacag, Tuao, Cagayan
Market Value: 317,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 269,000 00

ITEM 78 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 6,757 00 sqm.
Lot 955 Palca, Tuao, Cagayan
Market Value: 236,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 153,000 00

ITEM 79 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 128,371 00 sqm.
Lot H-186574 Dagupan, Tuao, Cagayan
Market Value: 154,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 100,000 00

ITEM 80 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 7,424 00 sqm.
Lot 1009 Palca (Now Angang), Tuao, Cagayan
Market Value: 132,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 99,000 00

ITEM 81 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 5,031 00 sqm.
Lot 1365 Dagupan, Tuao, Cagayan
Market Value: 106,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 69,000 00

ITEM 82 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,414 00 sqm
Lot 1518-D Fugu, Tuao, Cagayan
Market Value: 35,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 26,000 00

ITEM 83 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,413 00 sqm.
Lot 1518-B Fugu, Tuao, Cagayan
Market Value: 35,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 26,000 00

ITEM 84 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,413 00 sqm.
Lot 1518-A Fugu, Tuao, Cagayan
Market Value: 35,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 26,000 00

ITEM 85 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 773 00 sqm.
Floor Area: 623.00 sqm.
Lot No. 2460-B Luna St. Extn., Ugac Norte, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan
Market Value: 4,077,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 3,262,000 00

ITEM 86 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2,873 00 sqm
Lot 1260-D Interior Arellano St. Ext Ugac Sur, Tuguegarao City
Market Value: 1,299,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 844,000 00

ITEM 87 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 393 00 sqm.
Floor Area: 128.00 sqm.
Lot No. 1269-E, 12-B Luna St., Extn., Ugac Sur, Tuguegarao City
Cagayan
Market Value: 760,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 570,000 00

ITEM 088 - Residential/Industrial Lot W/ Patay Husk Depositor Ricemill Warehouse, Eave Portion, Warehouse, Mini Ricemill And Office
Lot Area: 9,995 00 sqm.
Lots 3522 & 3518 Along Nat'L Rd Bo Lanna
Market Value: 8,500,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 7,225,000 00

ITEM 089 - Residential/Industrial Lot W/ Res'L House, Warehouse San-San Store/Office And Servant'S Quarter
Lot Area: 652 00 sqm.
Lots 2604-C And 2611-E, Along Nat'L Rd Bo San Mateo
Market Value: 2,000,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 1,600,000 00

ITEM 090 - Res'L/Ind'L Lot W/ Warehouse
Lot Area: 300 00 sqm
Lot2793-B Along Nat'L H'Way, Bo Lanna
Market Value: 500,000 00
Min. Bid Price : 400,000 00

ADDITIONAL PROPERTIES

ITEM 091 - VACANT RESIDENTIAL LOT
Lot Area: 665.00 sqm.
Lot 3 Del Rosario St., Tuguegarao City, Cagayan
Market Value: 3,325,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 2,500,000 00

MAY 24, 2007 • THURSDAY • 2:00 PM • COUNTRY FARM - PAVILLION, Prov. Road San Andres, Santiago City, Isabela

ISABELA

PRIME PROPERTIES

ITEM 01 - Residential/Industrial Lot W/ Warehouse, 2-Storey Office/Res'L Bldg., Pafay-Buying Station (Mini-Dryerextension,Storage/Stockroom & Warehouse Exts. & 2-Storey Factory Office Ext.,(Office,Warehouse Eave & Servant'S Quarter
Lot Area: 16,225 00 sqm.
Lot A Along National Highway, Poblacion
Market Value: 17,000,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 15,300,000 00

ITEM 02 - Rawland
Lot Area: 24,962 00 sqm.
Barrio San Felipe
Market Value: 15,000,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 12,000,000 00

ITEM 03 - Res'L Lot W/ 1-Storey Bldg
Lot Area: 21,766.00 sqm.
Along Nat'L H'Way, Batal
Market Value: 15,000,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 12,000,000 00

ITEM 04 - Residential/Industrial Lot W/ 3-Storeyres'L Bldg, Warehouse & Extension
Lot Area: 13,286 00 sqm.
Along National Road
Market Value: 14,500,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 11,600,000 00

ITEM 05 - Residential/ Ind'L Lot W/ Res'Lhouse, Warehouse & Solar Drier
Lot Area: 1,155 00 sqm
Lot 1-B-8-G Poblacion
Market Value: 2,600,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 2,080,000 00

ITEM 6 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2,263 00 sqm
Lot No. 4042-A Prov'L. Road, Brgy. Kalabaza, Aurora, Isabela
Market Value: 669 000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 669,000.00

ITEM 7 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 315 00 sqm
Lot 4, Cor. Prov'L Rd. & Cacal St., Bagong Luna, Aurora, Isabela
Market Value: 504,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 454,000 00

ITEM 08 - Vacant Residential Lots
Lot Area: 8,150 00 sqm
Poblacion, Benito Soliven
Market Value: 1,630,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,304,000 00

ITEM 9 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 346 66 sqm
Floor Area: 311 00 sqm
Lot 20234-C, Caliguian, Burgos, Isabela
Market Value: 715 000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 715,000.00

ITEM 10 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 70,044.00 sqm
Lot 4479 Brgy. Rd. Ranag, Burgos, Isabela
Market Value: 490 000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 392,000 00

ITEM 011 - Residential Lot W/ 2-Storey Res'L Bldg & Warehouse
Lot Area: 6,294 00 sqm
Lot1863,Along Barrio Road Bo Cubag
Market Value: 2,000,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,700,000 00

ITEM 012 - Residential/Industrial Lot W/ Solardryer, Warehouse & Mini Warehouse
Lot Area: 2,023 00 sqm
Along Provincial Rd., Bo Sampaloc
Market Value: 1,500,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,275,000 00

ITEM 013 - LOT MINOR IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2,467.00 sqm.
Lot 445 Cor. Tm Caludio & Jacinto Sts. San Andres Cabatuan, Isabela
Market Value: 1,496,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,197,000 00

ITEM 14 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 640 00 sqm.
Lot 424-C Cabatuan, Isabela
Market Value: 192,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 154,000 00

ITEM 015 - Residential Lot
Lot Area: 825 00 sqm
Lot 2135-I-2 National Road, Barrio Tanngsing
Market Value: 1,200,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 960,000 00

ITEM 016 - Commercial Lot W/ 2-Depreciated Piggeries
Lot Area: 5,086.00 sqm.
Lot 5928 Barrio Gayonggayong
Market Value: 700,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 595,000 00

ITEM 017 - Residential/Industrial Lot W/ Res'L bldg Made Up Of Light Materials
Lot Area: 50,000 00 sqm.
Lot 3067-G-1 Provincial Road, Barrio Capitan (Now Libertad)
Market Value: 5,000,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 4,000,000 00

ITEM 18 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 387 00 sqm.
Lot 163 Poblacion (Formerly Taggapan) Echague, Isabela
Market Value: 87,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 66,000 00

ITEM 019 - Vacant Residential Lot/Comm'L Lot
Lot Area: 1,190 00 sqm
Lot-3710, San Vicente
Market Value: 6,000,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 4,500,000 00

ITEM 020 - Commercial /Residential Lot W/ 5 Swimming Pools Shower Room w/ T&B,2-Storey Bldg,Single Storeybldg & Cottages
Lot Area: 10,000.00 sqm.
Alibagu, Ilagan
Market Value: 4,000,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 3,200,000 00

ITEM 021 - Residential/Industrial Lot W/Res'Lbldg W/ Basement,Restaurant &Warehouse
Lot Area: 548.00 sqm
Lots 4268-A & 4268-B, National Road, Barrio Guinatan
Market Value: 2,400,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 2,160,000 00

ITEM 22 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 400 00 sqm.
Floor Area: 285 00 sqm
Lot 21504, No. 164 Nat'L. Highway, Alinguigan 2Nd, Ilagan, Isabela
Market Value: 1,269,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,015,000.00

ITEM 023 - Vacant Lot
Lot Area: 1,136 00 sqm.
Lot 20702-E Brgy. Road Alibagu
Market Value: 760,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 684,000.00

ITEM 024 - Residential Lots W/ Fully Depreciatedres'L House
Lot Area: 573.00 sqm.
Lots 21299-A & B, Bo Baculod
Market Value: 200,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 200,000 00

ITEM 25 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 748.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 120 00 sqm
Lot 3833 San Jose Norte, Mallig, Isabela
Market Value: 549 000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 450,000 00

ITEM 26 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,151.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 107 00 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 5 Holy Friday, Mallig, Isabela
Market Value: 124,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 99,000 00

ITEM 27 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 900 00 sqm
Floor Area: 414 00 sqm
Lot 4-A & 4-B Nat'L Rd. Arellano, Quezon, Isabela
Market Value: 3,292,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 3,292,000 00

ITEM 28 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 896 00 sqm
Floor Area: 243 00 sqm
Lot 2 & 2-A, Block 108, Arellano Quezon, Isabela
Market Value: 2,294,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,950,000 00

ITEM 29 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 9,973.00 sqm.
Lot 2679-B-2 Barrio Abut, Quezon Isabela
Market Value: 299,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 292,000 00

ITEM 30 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,141.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 78 00 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk. 4 Bo. Manga, Quezon, Isabela
Market Value: 96,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 96,000 00

ITEM 31 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 209 00 sqm
Floor Area: 104 00 sqm
Lot 1697-B-6-2-A Ranaig Ramon, Isabela
Market Value: 145,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 145,000 00

ITEM 032 - Residential/Industrial Lot W 2-Storey Bldg W/ Attc. Office, Warehouse Servant'S Quarter, Solar Dryer Palay Husk Depositor & 2-Storey Res'L Bldg
Lot Area: 6,739.00 sqm
Castillo Street, Barrio Bantug,
Market Value: 12,000,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 9,600,000 00

ITEM 033 - Commercial/Industrial Lot W/ Open Warehouse & Commercial Stall
Lot Area: 1,010 00 sqm
Along National Highway Cor Bo Rd Barrio Bantug
Market Value: 6,500,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 5,200,000 00

ITEM 34 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,032 00 sqm
Lot 1, 2, 3 & 4 Blk National Road, Bgy Bantug(Formerly Vira), Roxas, Isabela
Market Value: 5,160,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 4,913,000 00

ITEM 35 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 228.00 sqm
Floor Area: 246 00 sqm
Lot 1 & Lot 7787-A-1 Isaac Leal St, Bantug, Roxas, Isabela
Market Value: 3,013,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 2,868,000 00

ITEM 36 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 9,030 00 sqm
Floor Area: 179 00 sqm
Lot 3885-A,B,D &F, Provincial Rd., Basilio, Roxas, Isabela
Market Value: 2,852,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 2,139,000 00

ITEM 037 - Industrial Lot With Office & Warehouse
Lot Area: 2,500 00 sqm
Lot 3698-F-1 Barrio Rizal East
Market Value: 1,250,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,125,000 00

ITEM 038 - Residential Lot W/ Warehouse
Lot Area: 299.00 sqm.
Lot 7717-D Gen. Luna St., Barrio Vira
Market Value: 1,200,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 960,000 00

ITEM 39 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 35,511.00 sqm
Floor Area: 347 00 sqm
Lot 7877-C-2-A, National Rd., Ramos East, San Isidro, Isabela
Market Value: 8,126,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 5,800,000 00

ITEM 040 - Vacant Residential Lots
Lot Area: 2,613.00 sqm
Lots 3637-H-11-A & 3637-H-9-A, Along Provincial Road, Bo Quezon
Market Value: 1,000,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 750,000 00

ITEM 41 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 411 00 sqm.
Floor Area: 161.00 sqm.
Lot 4654-G-23-B Provincial Road, Rizal West, San Isidro, Isabela
Market Value: 276,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 276,000 00

ITEM 42 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,000 00 sqm.
Lot 29 Victoria (Now Doña Paulina), San Isidro, Isabela
Market Value: 150,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 120,000 00

ITEM 43 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2,163 00 sqm.
Floor Area: 286.00 sqm.
Lot 4-B, Brgy. Cabantan, San Manuel, Isabela
Market Value: 1,602,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,550,000 00

ITEM 44 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2,451.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 160 00 sqm.
Lots 4-K & 4-L Brgy. Rd. Cabaritan, San Manuel, Isabela
Market Value: 1,151,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 863,000 00

ITEM 45 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 505 00 sqm.
Floor Area: 169 00 sqm
Lot 1-B-3-C-1 & Lot 1-B-3-C-2 Nat'L Rd. Dist. 1, San Manuel, Isabela
Market Value: 889,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 667,000 00

ITEM 46 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 747 00 sqm
Floor Area: 158 00 sqm
Lot 7245 Barrio Of Eden, San Manuel, Isabela
Market Value: 480,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 480,000 00

ITEM 47 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 814.00 sqm
Lot 7055-E-5-A Poblacion(Now Bacareña), San Mateo, Isabela
Market Value: 818,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 695,000 00

ITEM 48 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 382 00 sqm
Lot 4988-B-3, V. Mapa St., Plaridel, Santiago City
Market Value: 1,242,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,118,000 00

ITEM 49 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 298 57 sqm.
Floor Area: 192 00 sqm
Lot 821 Recto Avenue, Victory Sur, Santiago City
Market Value: 1,086,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 923,000 00

ITEM 50 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 398 00 sqm.
Lot 4988-B-5, Along V. Mapa And Torres Sts., Plandel, Santiago City
Market Value: 955,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 860,000 00

ITEM 51 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 367 00 sqm.
Lot 4988-B-2, Torres St., Plaridel, Santiago City
Market Value: 881,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 793,000 00

ITEM 52 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 137 00 sqm
Floor Area: 42 00 sqm.
Lot 103, No. 7 Abaya St., Victory Norte, Santiago City
Market Value: 471,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 424,000 00

ITEM 053 - Comm'L Lots W/ 4-Storey Res'L/Comm'L Bldg
Lot Area: 233 00 sqm
Along Nat'L Rd & Lumidao St, Villasis
Market Value: 8,000,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 6,800,000 00

ITEM 054 - 2-Adj'T Res'L Lots W/ Fully Depreciated Warehouse & Res'L Bldg
Lot Area: 5,204 00 sqm
Lots 20805-B & 4930-F-2 Along Aguinaldo St Bo Rosario
Market Value: 7,856,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 6,635,100 00

ITEM 055 - Commercial Lots
Lot Area: 534 00 sqm
Lots 513-A, 512-B & 513 B-2-A Poblacion
Market Value: 6,000,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 5,100,000 00

ITEM 056 - Res'L Lot W/ Depreciated 2-Storey Bldg
Lot Area: 1,486.00 sqm.
Lot 2-B Roque St. Bo Centro West
Market Value: 6,000,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 4,800,000 00

ITEM 057 - Res'L/Commercial Lot W/ Single Storey Comm'L
Lot Area: 618 00 sqm
Lot4-A-1Along Camacam St.
Market Value: 5,500,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 4,400,000 00

ITEM 058 - Res'L/Comm'L Lot W/ Single-Storey Bldg & Quarter
Lot Area: 1,670 00 sqm
Lot 1 Nat'L H'Way, Bo Mabini,
Market Value: 4,500,000 00
Minimum Bid Price : 4,050,000 00

ITEM 059 - Industrial Lot With Office
Lot Area: 1,034.00 sqm
Lot 6-B Claro M. Recto St., (Now Calao West)
Market Value: 2,500,000 00
Minimum Bid Price :

DID YOU KNOW...

ACTRESS CHERRY PIE PICACHE USED ONLY soap on her hair for three weeks, to look convincing as a slum dweller in "Foster Child," set to debut in the Directors' Fortnight of the Cannes Film Fest.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

Cinema 1
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 LUCKY YOU
PREMIERE
SPIDER-MAN 3

Cinema 2
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 CONDEMNED

Cinema 3
1 LUCKY YOU
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 28 WEEKS LATER

Cinema 4
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 THE CHANTING
4 SPIDER-MAN 3

Cinema 5
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 LUCKY YOU

Cinema 6
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SUNSHINE

Cinema 7
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 RESRVED
4 RESRVED

Cinema 8
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 CONDEMNED

Cinema 9
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 RESERVED

Cinema 10
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 LUCKY YOU
5 THE CONDEMNED

Cinema 11
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 THE CONDEMNED
5 SPIDER-MAN 3

Cinema 12
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 LUCKY YOU

Cinema 13
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SUNSHINE

Cinema 14
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 LUCKY YOU
5 THE CONDEMNED

Cinema 15
1 ZOMBIES
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 RESERVED

Masagana Cinema (Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 SPIDER-MAN-3
3 PAN'S LABYRINTH

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 SPIDER-MAN-3

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 SPIDER-MAN-3
3 THE CHANTING
4 SPIDER-MAN-3

Centre Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 SPIDER-MAN-3

Cinemas (Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 LUCKY YOU
2 SPIDER-MAN-3
3 SPIDER-MAN-3
4 28 WEEKS LATER

Cinema 2000 Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calumba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 SUNSHINE
2 SPIDER-MAN-3
3 SPIDER-MAN-3
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Binan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 TURISTAS
3 SPIDER-MAN-3

Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 ROCKY BALBOA
2 THE CHANTING
3 SPIDER-MAN-3
4 SPIDER-MAN-3

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 THE REAPING
3 SPIDER-MAN-3

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 SPIDER-MAN-3

Lianas Cinema (Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
2 ANG CUTE NG INA MO

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 MASAHISTA
3 BIGLANG LIKO
4 RUMBLE BOYS

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 BASA SA DAGAT
3 SUNSHINE
4 KATAS
5 SATANICA

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 PICK UP GIRL
2 SPIDER-MAN-3
3 SUNSHINE
4 SPIDER-MAN-3

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 SATANICA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 SPIDER-MAN-3
3 SPIDER-MAN-3
4 28 WEEKS LATER

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 SPIDER-MAN-3
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 CONDEMNED

stmall (Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 SPIDER-MAN-3
4 CONDEMNED
5 RESERVED

metropolis www.clickthecity.com.ph (ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433694
1 THE SHOOTER
2 SPIDER-MAN-3
3 SPIDER-MAN-3
4 28 WEEKS LATER

THEATRES
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 SPIDER-MAN-3
3 SUNSHINE

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC Pacific Mall Lucena tel (042) 660-5271
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 SPIDER-MAN-3
3 RESRVED
4 RESRVED

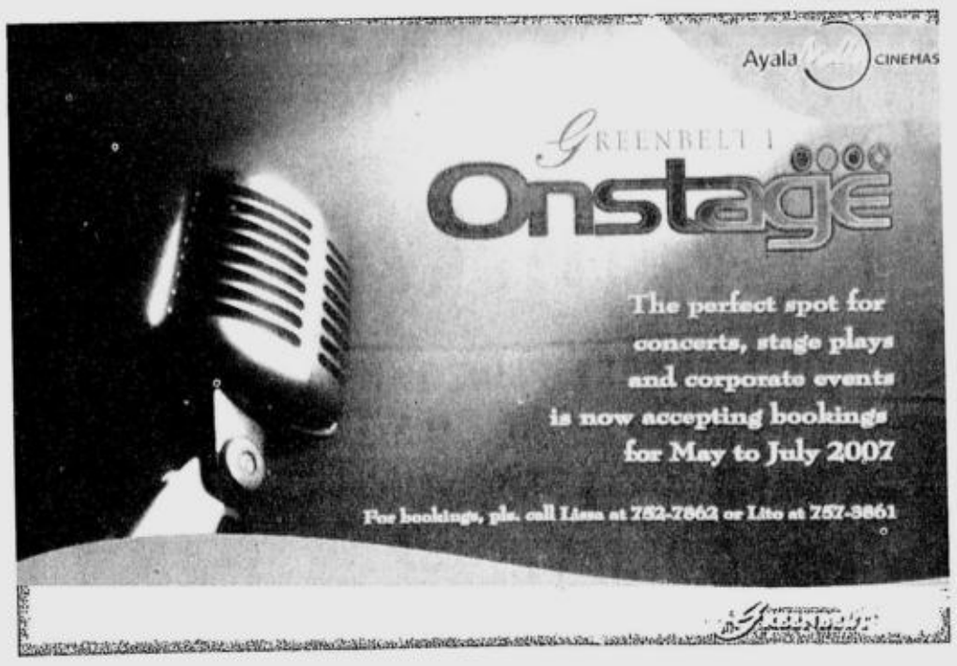
Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 SPIDER-MAN-3
3 SPIDER-MAN-3
4 28 WEEKS LATER
5 THE CONDEMNED
6 SPIDER-MAN-3
7 LUCKY YOU
8 THE REAPING
9 WILD HOGS
10 PERFECT STRANGER

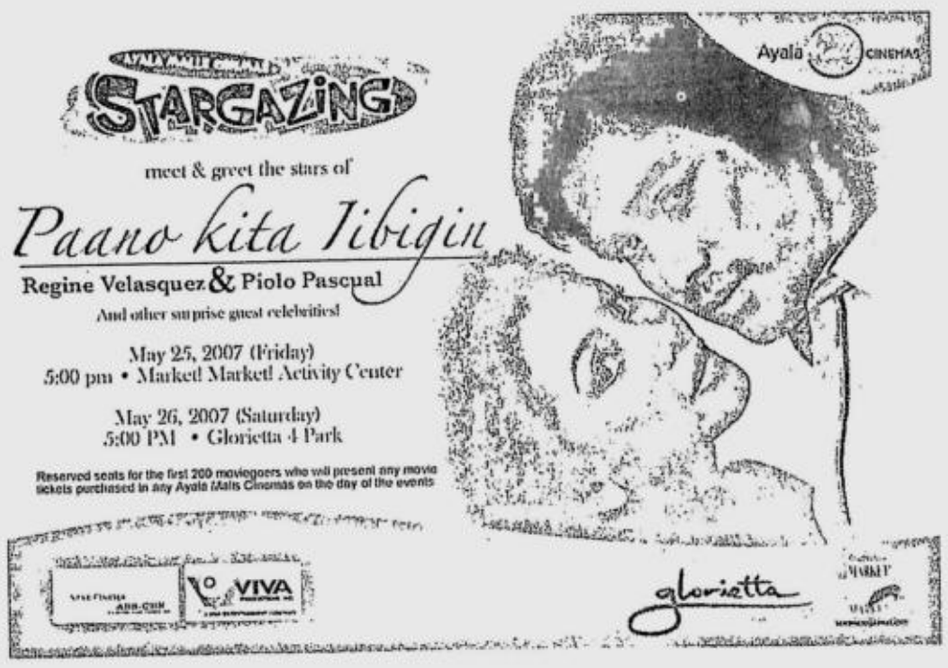
Blue Wave Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 THE CONDEMNED
2 SPIDER-MAN-3
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 SPIDER-MAN-3

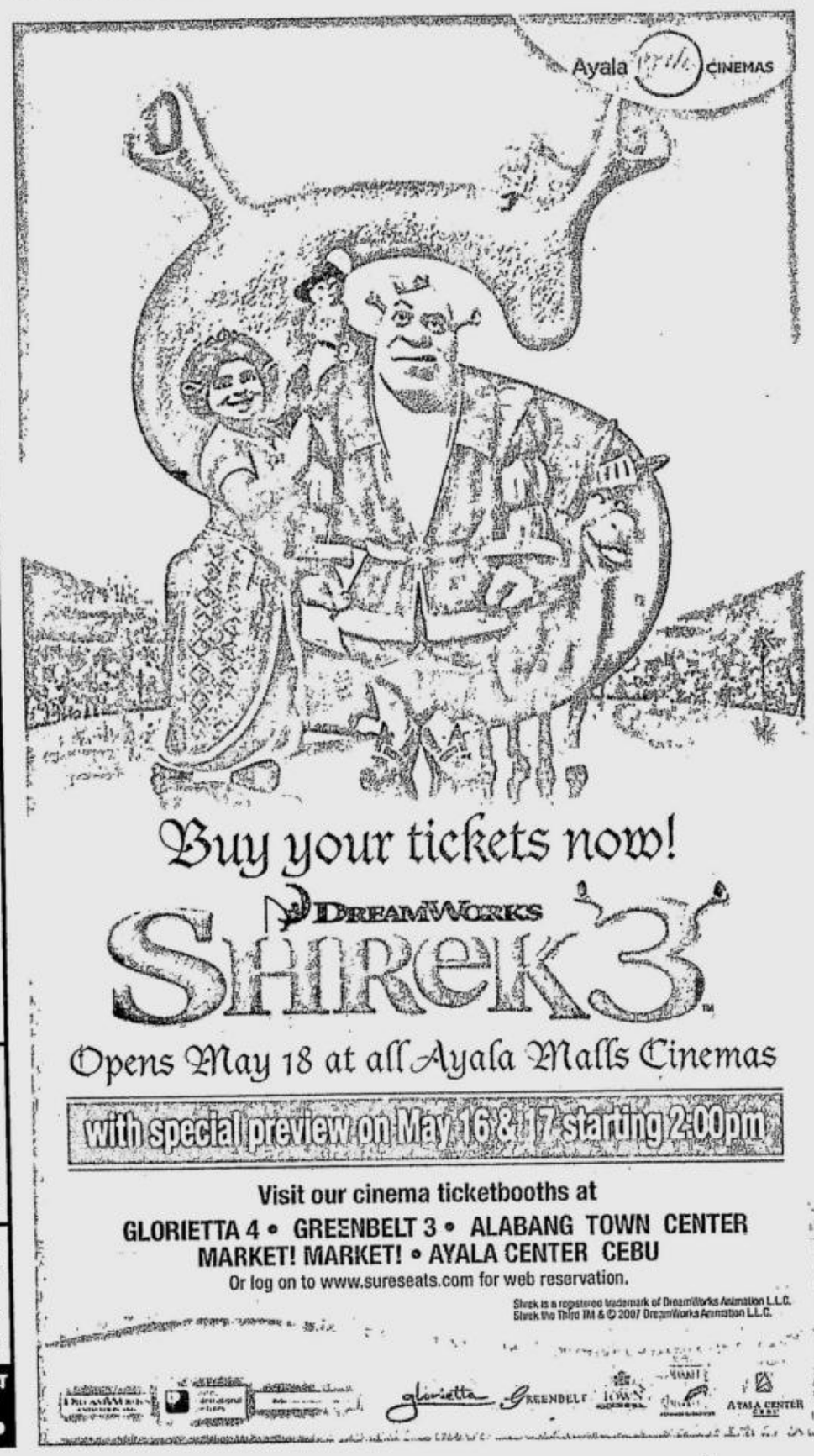
SUPER CINERAMA Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 SPIDER-MAN-3
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 LUCKY YOU
5 THE CONDEMNED

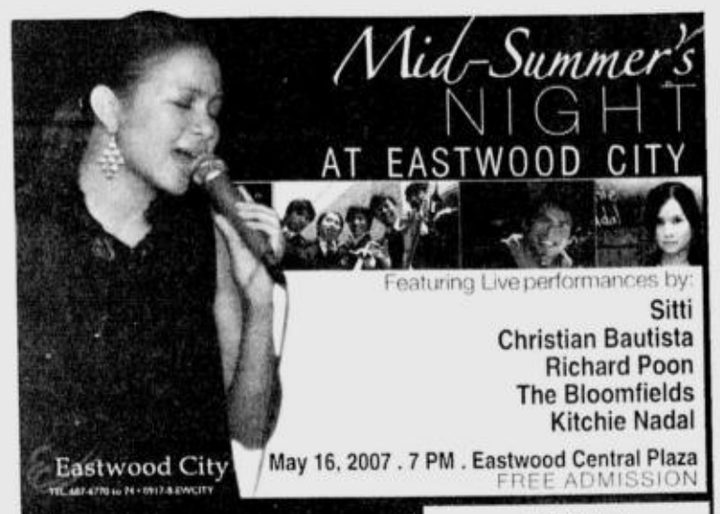
MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ZOMBIES
2 SPIDER-MAN-3
3 SPIDER-MAN-3
4 RESERVED

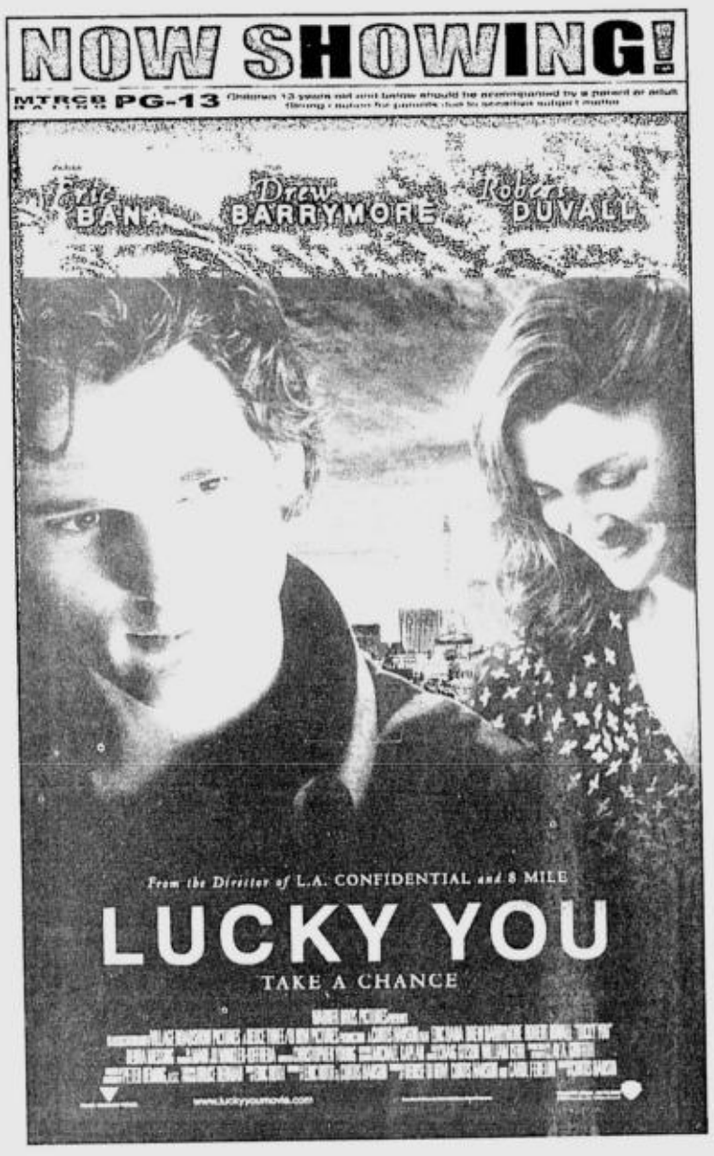
MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

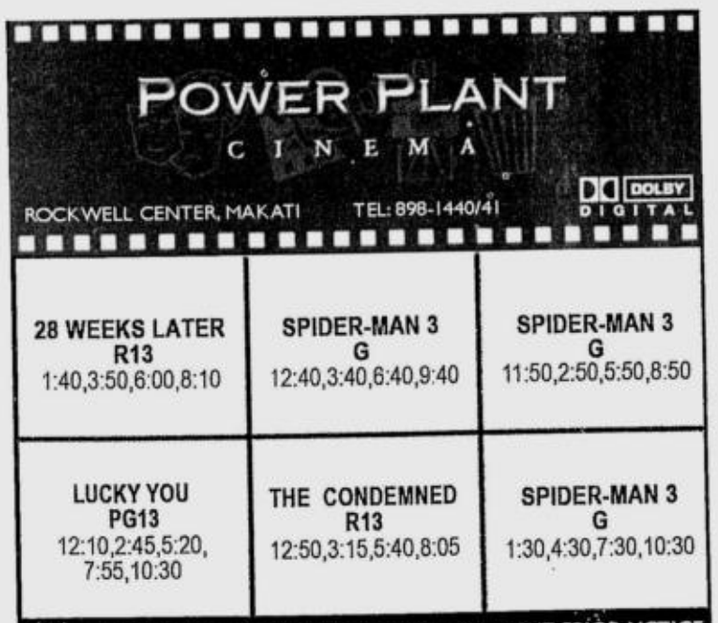












TV talk show icons play musical chairs

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

OPRAH WINFREY HAS BEEN HOSTING HER talk show for more than two decades now. How much longer does she intend to rule the roust as the inspiring TV hostess with the mostest?

All sorts of speculations have been bandied about, some of them the products of wishful thinking on the part of some avaricious Oprah wannabes impatiently waiting for the rich, famous, influential and inspiring Ms Winfrey to slip up or give up.

Let's hear it from Oprah herself, shall we? On TV recently, she finally laid the diverse and even contradictory speculations to rest.

Straight from the veritable television thoroughbred's mouth, we now know that Winfrey intends to play out her current contract "for three or four more years—and then, that's it."

So, Oprah wannabes, you have only a few more years to get your act together and go for Oprah's TV throne—that is, if early bird **Tyra Banks** lets you! Fat chance.

And Jay Leno?

What about **Jay Leno**? Some years ago, the "Tonight" show host chose **Conan O'Brien** to replace him once he retired, but it wasn't clear when that would be. Well, on his show a couple of weeks ago, Leno announced that the big change will happen in two years' time.

Next question: Who's replacing Conan on *his* late-late show? The TV jury's still out on that one.

As for **Rosie O'Donell**, she's decided not to renew her contract with "The View," possibly because the producers couldn't afford her new asking price of $10 million.

Why has O'Donnell set such a high price on her hosting services? Because, right after she started co-hosting "The View" in her characteristically abrasive and controversial style, its viewership went up by 30 percent.

Still, $10 million is an extremely steep price to pay even for all those additional rating points, so O'Donnell is out. Possible replacements: **Joan Rivers** and **Roseanne Barr**.

The King

In the light of all of these small or seismic changes on the TV landscape, it's a wonder that **Larry King** is still at it, interviewing one VIP after another (40,000 and counting), for more than 50 years!

Even his serious medical crises haven't kept The King away from his microphone and signature suspenders for long.

More impressively, even as Oprah and Jay have announced their eventual departure, King hasn't made public his retirement plans—*if* any.

What will the retiring TV hosts do afterwards? Leno wants to go back to stand-up comedy when the spirit moves him.

Oprah has her new school in Africa, her many causes, her pampered dogs—and some people want her to run for US President!

Oprah nixes *that* idea, but her options are as open as the whole, wide world.

Hey, there's a thought: Maybe she'll end up as Secretary General of the United Nations? Hmmm…

'The Invisible'

From the producers of "The Sixth Sense" comes "The Invisible," a supernatural thriller about a teenager who finds himself trapped between two worlds—visible to the living and all too close to the dead.

A high school senior with a bright future, Nick Powell (**Justin Chatwin**) is suddenly attacked on a dark night, his shattered body left for dead. His only chance at a future is to figure out what happened to him, and why—before time runs out.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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---John Thomason, Orlando Weekly

"CLEVER AND KEEPS YOU THINKING – DURING AND AFTER."
---Victoria Alexander, FilmsInReview.com

"GRABS YOU BY THE THROAT.."
---Pete Hammond, Maxim

"A PROVOCATIVE GAME THAT PLAYS OUT WITH INTELLIGENCE AND WIT."
---Claudia Puig, USA Today

"AN EXCEPTIONALLY SUSPENSEFUL NAIL-BITER!"
---Rex Reed, New York Observer

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WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT (WWE) PRESENTS
STONE COLD STEVE AUSTIN
THE CONDEMNED

HOW DO YOU CONVICT A MAN WHO HAS ALREADY BEEN PROVEN INNOCENT?
ANTHONY HOPKINS
RYAN GOSLING
I SHOT MY WIFE...PROVE IT.
FRACTURE
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AT THE CINEMAS
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Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 28 WEEKS LATER	2 SPIDER-MAN 3	3 THE CONDEMNED	4 SPIDER-MAN 3
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 SPIDER-MAN 3	2 LUCKY YOU	3 THX SPIDER-MAN 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 PERFECT STRANGERS	5 THE CONDEMNED	6 SPIDER-MAN 3	7 28 WEEKS LATER
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 LUCKY YOU		2 SPIDER-MAN 3	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX SPIDER-MAN 3 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX SPIDER-MAN 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 28 WEEKS LATER GUARANTEED SEATS	4 LUCKY YOU GUARANTEED SEATS	5 SPIDER-MAN 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX SPIDER-MAN 3 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 SPIDER-MAN 3	
	3 LUCKY YOU	4 THE CONDEMNED	5 28 WEEKS LATER	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 SPIDER-MAN 3	2 SPIDER-MAN 3	3	4 GRAY MATTERS
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 SPIDER-MAN 3		2 LUCKY YOU	
	3 28 WEEKS LATER	4 THE CONDEMNED	5 SPIDER-MAN 3	

At the Activity Center

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Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 9pm
Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 9pm
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Laguna Expo May 7 to 13, 2007	Bratz Fashion Show May 13, 2007
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Mother's Day Celebration May 13, 2007	Strawberry Shortcake & Friends: The Big Berry Bake Off May 11 to 13, 2007

GREENBELT — Greenbelt 2 Dinner Theatre presents: Broadway Showstoppers May 15 & 22, 2007

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Ayala MUSEUM — CHINESE DIASPORA: Art Streams from the Mainland (six shows) Ongoing until May 27, 2007. For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org

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Strawberry Shortcake and Friends
The Big Berry Bake Off at the Ayala Malls
Ayala Malls
Glorietta
Activity Center
May 3, 6pm
May 4, 3pm & 6pm
May 5 & 6, 11:30am, 3pm & 6pm
Market! Market!
Activity Center
May 11-13
11am, 3pm & 6pm
Alabang Town Center
Activity Center
May 18-20
11am, 3pm & 6pm
TriNoma
Activity Center
May 25-27
11am, 3pm & 6pm
Ayala Center Cebu
Activity Center
June 1-3
1pm, 4pm & 6:30pm
glorietta | The Terraces | AYALA CENTER CEBU | TriNoma
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Melanie the mom and generous Oprah

MELANIE MARQUEZ FLEW TO THE UNITED States last Thursday for a much needed break.

"I will be away for about a month," the beauty queen turned actress told INQUIRER Entertainment before leaving. She said she would be with her children and husband Adam Lawyer, and that they would be staying in their ranch in Utah.

Melanie was recently embroiled in a court battle regarding her endorsement of a line of skin care products. The actress reported that the court had earlier ruled in her favor and Psalmstre's, the company she represents. She subsequently renewed her contract.

The US trip is also a "reward" from her lawyer husband, she said, for finishing her Business Administration course, with honors, at the International Academy of Management and Economics late last year.

Melanie said she was looking forward to spending Mother's Day today in the US with the people she loved most. "I know they have plans," she said. "My children always surprise me on Mother's Day. I'm easy to please. *Kahit* card *lang*, happy *na-ako*."

She recounted: "Last year, my children gave me a hand-made card, which they all signed. They also prepared carbonara and sweets for me!"

Melanie stressed that motherhood is the most important role she has ever played. "My kids' kisses inspire me, their hugs, motivate me, their prayers protect me, and their dreams fulfill me."

She has six children—Manuelito, 24; Mazenne, 17; Maxine, 15; Michelle, 12; Adam Jr., 5; and Abraham, 3. "I want to have more," she said.

Armin Adina

MELANIE MARQUEZ

RUSHES

Who snubbed queen?

NEW YORK—"The Queen" snubbed the queen? Actress Helen Mirren is said to be "mortified" by reports she turned down dinner with Queen Elizabeth II, the character she portrayed in her Oscar-winning performance for "The Queen."

Mirren told the New York Post she desperately tried to change the shooting timetable for her upcoming movie "National Treasure," but that the production was being filmed on location to a tight schedule.

I just could not shut all that down to take three days off to go to Buckingham Palace," Britain's Mail quoted Mirren as saying.

It also quoted a senior palace official, who reportedly said: "It is unheard of for her majesty to extend a personal invitation to dinner to someone who has portrayed her in a film. "We did not expect to be told that the date is unacceptable."

AFP

Oprah 'most generous'

LOS ANGELES—Oprah Winfrey has topped a new list of the most generous celebrity philanthropists, having donated more than $50 million to charity last year.

Los Angeles-based The Giving Back Fund, a group set up to encourage and advise on celebrity philanthropy, said the 53-year-old talk show queen gave a total of $58.3 million to her own charities and other groups.

The list was published on the Giving Back Fund's website (www.givingback.org).

Other celebrities to make the list included Barbra Streisand, who placed fourth after donating just under $12 million to the foundation which carries her name as well various civil liberties and environmental groups.

Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt were 11th with $2.4 million in donations. Nicolas Cage was 12th with a $2-million donation to human rights watchdog Amnesty International, joining former Beatle Paul McCartney.

AFP

Top of the tabloids

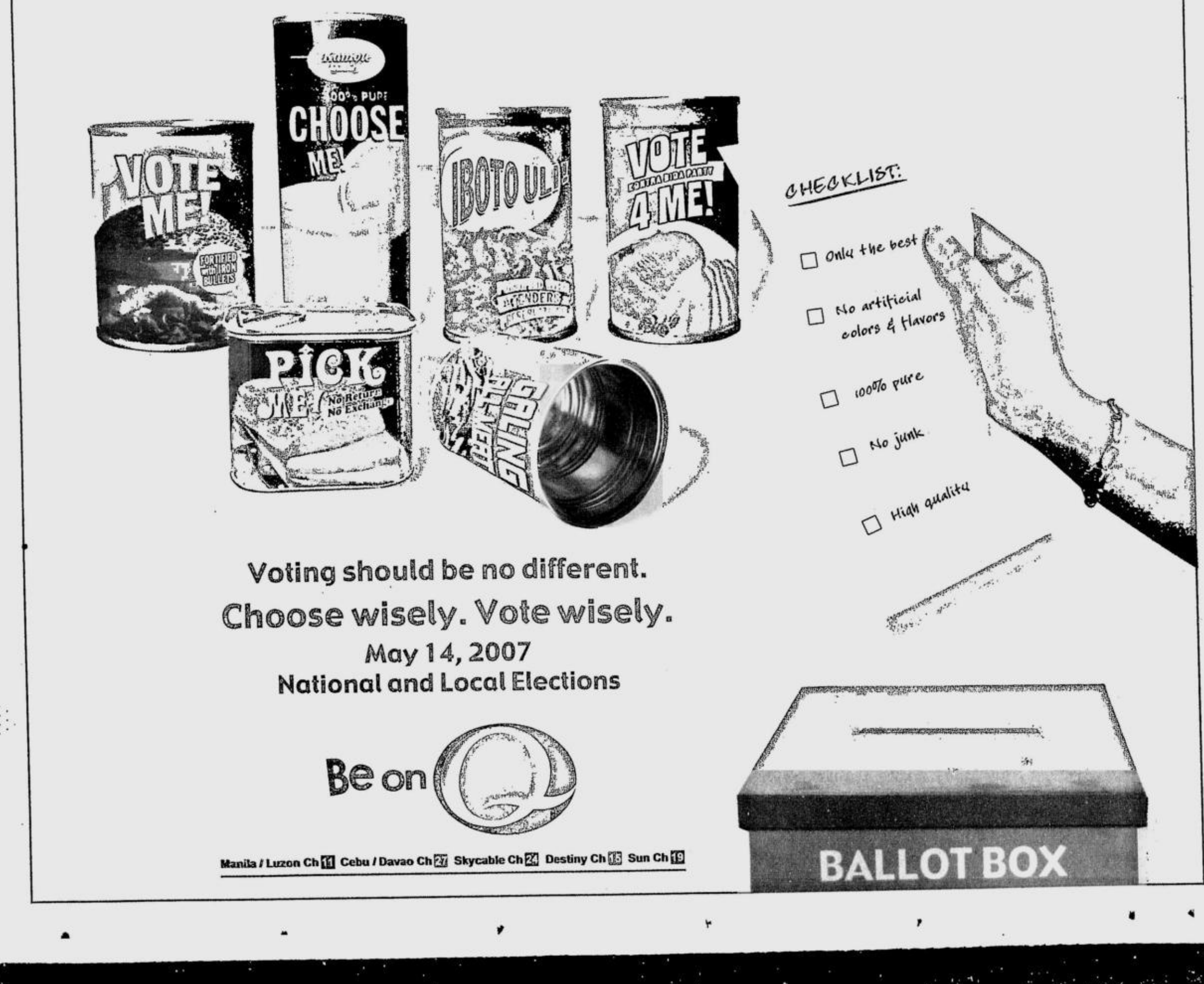
Top show biz stories in local tabloids this week (and why we are moved, if we are moved):

- *Nag-isnaban sa* hotel *sina* Regine, Ogie?
- Announcement *ni* Ogie (about Regine) *lalabas sa* US mag. (Local publications not good enough?)

REGINE Velasquez and Ogie Alcasid

- Ogie, *mas inunang magsalita sa* foreign magazine *tungkol sa relasyon nila ni* Regine. *Lalabas sa* June. (The new measure of stardom in the Philippines—how much media mileage one gets for ... not saying anything.)
- Willie (Revillame) *bumagsak sa* migraine. (Where other hurdles failed.)
- Pacman (Manny Pacquiao), *imbiyerna sa* ABS? *Babaeng* news anchor *mahadera, intrimitida.* (Who can that be?)
- LJ Reyes *di raw totoong hinaras ng isang politiko.* (This news clip went on to say she harassed the politico, actually.)
- "Rounin" *ng* ABS *sumemplang sa* ratings.
- *Walang artistang mananalong senador.* (A prediction, but not ours.)
- Angel Locsin, *hindi natatakot sa* BIR. (Neither are we, for *millions* of other reasons.)
- Nora, *humagulgol kay* Ian *sa* Tate. (She wants her family back together *daw*. What/who could be stopping her?)
- Mother Lily, *naiipit kina* Binay *at* Lapid. (Yes, even Mother has only one vote!)
- Ara, Jomari kiss and make up. (It's not what you think. Pops will soon be back.)
- James *mahal na uli ni* Kris.
- Kris, love *ulit si* James.
- Presidency, *tinatarget ni* Kris. (We're moved, but we're speechless.)

ANGEL LOCSIN,



SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2007

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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The Lindsay Lohan behind the 'party girl' image

CAMERON DIAZ

LINDSAY LOHAN

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

And why Cameron Diaz seems to outdo Imelda in terms of shoe collection

LOS ANGELES—IMELDA MARcos continues to be newsworthy and helpful in establishing the FC (Filipino connection) in our interviews, even without really trying.

In a recent "Shrek The Third" press con with Cameron Diaz, who voices Princess Fiona, a colleague asked the actress about her weakness for shoes and if she has more than Imelda.

Cameron answered: "Hasn't Paris Hilton outdone Imelda Marcos yet? Women just love shoes. I don't think I'm alone in this. I don't know if I have enough. I don't wear them all—some I just have as pieces of art. I appreciate the architecture of a great shoe."

Mobbed

A mob of paparazzi ran after Lindsay Lohan when she went to our press association's office for an interview.

"It's chaotic. We just got chased inside," said Lindsay, looking classy in an off-white dress. The elegant, nice girl look was a perfect way to help counter the wild party girl the tabloids have been feverishly playing up, with even stories of alleged cocaine binges.

Whatever the tabloids say, it can't be disputed that Lindsay is a good actress. Unfortunately, her partying ways are what get emphasized.

In her new film "Georgia Rule," a story about three generations of women, Lindsay welcomed the chance to work with accomplished actresses Jane Fonda and Felicity Huffman.

In this rambling interview, Lindsay shared an anecdote about how happy she was when she failed to land in a tabloid: "Recently, I was handed one of the tabloids. I wasn't in it. I was really excited."

After the press con, the paparazzi were still outside. They gave her the chase.

We'd like to hear from you directly—what's really going on with you?

People say certain things but I don't focus on that. The only disappointing thing is it distracts me from what I do. I like to perform and entertain.

Can you talk about doing a scene in the movie that is sexual in nature?

I was nervous having to express sexuality in front of a crew. I've never done that before. There were paparazzi in the bushes, taking pictures.

I was so uncomfortable so I asked Garry (Marshall, the director), "Can we shoot this on a different day? I'm terrified." We finished the scene toward the end of the movie. I was much more comfortable.

Were you nervous working with Jane Fonda?

I dressed up as Barbarella (Jane's early popular screen character) once for Halloween. I have seen some of her films. When we were in rehearsals, I was extremely nervous. With Jane, Garry and Felicity around, the table read was terrifying. But we became family because of the things we went through. Jane and Felicity's characters were very maternal. I learned a lot just being around them.

There were instances when questions about your professionalism were raised while you were making this film and a previous movie.

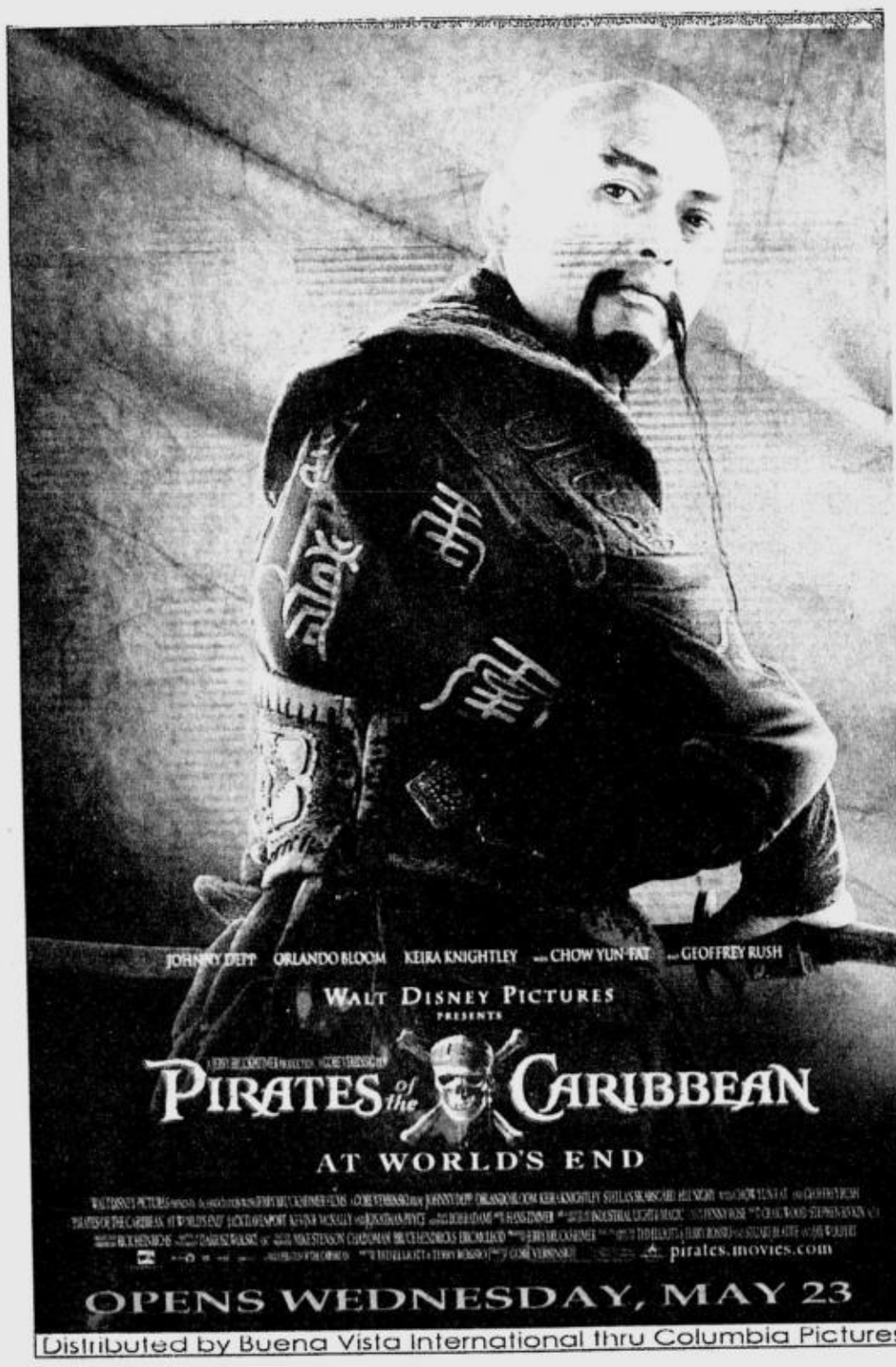
The past is past. I can only learn from it. I was being really immature by not getting there on time. That was disrespectful to my costars as well. It won't happen again.

Who is the real Lindsay Lohan?

I enjoy being 20 and hanging out with my friends when I'm not working. Once I'm more settled in life, then you probably won't see me out as much. But I'm not even 21 yet. I will be (21) in July, on the second.

What do you plan to do when you turn 21?

THE LINDSAY/K2



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1 SPIDER-MAN 3 • THX
1:15 4:05 6:55 9:45

2 SPIDER-MAN 3
10:40 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

3 SPIDER-MAN 3
1:00 3:50 6:40 9:30

4 THE CONDEMNED
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

5 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

6 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

7 SPIDER-MAN 3
3:20 6:10 9:00

8 indieSine: MANORO
1:10 3:00 4:50 6:40 8:30

9 28 WEEKS LATER
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

10 LUCKY YOU
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

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3 SPIDER-MAN 3
12:10 3:05 6:00 9:00

4 THE CONDEMNED
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

5 28 WEEKS LATER
12:40 2:55 5:10 7:30 10:00

6 SPIDER-MAN 3
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

7 SPIDER-MAN 3
12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00

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1 SPIDER-MAN 3
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2 SPIDER-MAN 3
12:00 2:40 5:20 8:00

3 SPIDER-MAN 3
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00

4 28 WEEKS LATER
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

5 THE CONDEMNED
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

6 SPIDER-MAN 3
1:40 4:20 7:00

7 SPIDER-MAN 3
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8 WILD HOGS
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3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 28 WEEKS LATER
6 THE CONDEMNED

PIONEER
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1 28 WEEKS LATER
12:50 3:30 6:10 8:50

2 SPIDER-MAN 3
12:50 3:30 6:10 8:50

3 THE CONDEMNED
1:15 3:45 6:15 8:40

4 LUCKY YOU
1:15 3:45 6:15 8:40

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4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 SHOOTER

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6 PREMONITION

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P 350 (After 5 p.m., Mon-Thu; Whole Day, Fri-Sun, Holidays)
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 28 WEEKS LATER
5 LUCKY YOU
6 SPIDER-MAN 3 / CARTOON NETWORK
PREMIERE CINEMA
SPIDER-MAN 3
CENTERSTAGE
SPIDER-MAN 3
CINEMA 1
SPIDER-MAN 3
CINEMA 2
SPIDER-MAN 3
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 SPIDER-MAN 3
7 SPIDER-MAN 3
8 SPIDER-MAN 3 / CARTOON NETWORK
9 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
10 LUCKY YOU
11 28 WEEKS LATER
12 CONDEMNED

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 28 WEEKS LATER
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 CONDEMNED
7 SPIDER-MAN 3
8 LUCKY YOU
9 SPIDER-MAN 3
10 SPIDER-MAN 3
11 SPIDER-MAN 3
12 WILD HOGS/ CARTOON NETWORK

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 THE SHOOTER
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 CONDEMNED
7 28 WEEKS LATER
8 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
9 SPIDER-MAN 3
10 SPIDER-MAN 3
11 PAN'S LABYRINTH
12 WILD HOGS/ CARTOON NETWORK

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
7 28 WEEKS LATER
8 PAN'S LABYRINTH/ CARTOON NETWORK
9 CONDEMNED
10 THE SHOOTER

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 CONDEMNED
4 SPIDER-MAN 3/ CARTOON NETWORK
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 SPIDER-MAN 3

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 28 WEEKS LATER
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 CONDEMNED
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 SPIDER-MAN 3
7 SPIDER-MAN 3
8 LUCKY YOU
9 ANG CUTE NG INA MO

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 CONDEMNED
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 CONDEMNED
3 LUCKY YOU
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 28 WEEKS LATER
6 SPIDER-MAN 3
7 SPIDER-MAN 3
8 SPIDER-MAN 3
9 SPIDER-MAN 3
10 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
11 PAN'S LABYRINTH/ CARTOON NETWORK
12 THE SHOOTER

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4333201-04
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 PREMONITION
3 THE SHOOTER
4 SPIDER-MAN 3

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 PAN'S LABYRINTH
4 FIREHOUSE DOG

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 CONDEMNED

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CONDEMNED
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
ANG CUTE NG INA MO
SPIDER-MAN 3

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
GRAY MATTERS
THE SHOOTER
THE LAST MIMZY/ CARTOON NETWORK

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
SPIDER-MAN 3
THE SHOOTER
PREMONITION
TURISTAS
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
MISS POTTER
THE REAPING

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SUNSHINE
PREMONITION

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
THE SHOOTER
SPIDER-MAN 3
THE LAST MIMZY/ CARTOON NETWORK
ANG CUTE NG INA MO

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187
ANG CUTE NG INA MO
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SUNSHINE

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
THE LAST MIMZY
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
THE SHOOTER
SPIDER-MAN 3
THE REAPING
RESERVED
GRAY MATTERS

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
PREMONITION
THE REAPING

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197836-39
SPIDER-MAN 3
THE SHOOTER
ROCKY BALBOA
SPIDER-MAN 3

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
LUCKY YOU
28 WEEKS LATER

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
THE SHOOTER
PREMONITION
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
PREMONITION
GRAY MATTERS
TURISTAS
THE SHOOTER
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
PREMONITION
THE REAPING

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*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

K2

Goodby

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

AT 34, JAY FONACIER GETS DJ dance music labeled "b loves the music of the Englis ty, the Brit pop Oasis, and Ol Up Dharma Down, Sugarfre

Fonacier can get his hands type of music—he happens dent of Odyssey Music and largest music retail chain in th

But what he wants is to more freedom and convenien

Interactive station

He is working at redefinin ploring a music store with t MoBo (Mobile Box)—an inter that allows a buyer to browse any album in the shop, then p clude the purchase just with t

Earlier, big music stores en tening stations, which turned liable, and offered limited en three discs for a pre-schedule week. With the MoBo, Fonaci rendered the three-disc sampl

He says the MoBo is his

The Lind

I'm probably going to do s I've never been allowed anyw place that's very strict.. I do throwing money away. I'd shopping. I'll probably go to force me to come home, of co

What else do you look forw

When I'm 21, I hope to ge apartment now. I had a house ing alone then. I got robbed mont for a very long time. M filled with clothes and lots o house and feel secure and co

What is the biggest misconc

The party girl image. I rea People don't really look at wh cause it's easier for them to the people who do tabloids. they are geniuses.

The movie is about paren about your parents and you

My mom has gone throug thing she has done. My broth for the summer. My sister w have a little brother who pla handle. But I love my father. on the things he's done becau

Jane Fonda, who plays Geo mother, has quite a few rul your mom, what are her rul

Mom's rule is clean up. M I'm not used to doing all the don't really have to (make my long time at the Chateau. Th ing up was that my mom was wanted me to rebel against with—which made more sen

What is your relationship w

I listen to my grandmoth mom. Because my mom lis grandmother is an amazing w

How was your experienc (a rehab institute)? Were yo

I was never bulimic. I cho because my life was unmana myself. I wasn't making the ri how to. Rather than cry for a control of my life. I need to b

I learned so much. I learn talk things out with people r if I'm mad.

Since you went through re changed?

A lot of my friends are sol not going to have a drink wh ing to freak out. We'll just see may change again. I meet ne

What did you tell your siste

She came to visit me. She

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ye to 3-disc listening stations

OFF ON A KIND OF
ach house." He also
n indie rock Bloc Par-
M groups Urbandub,
and Paramita.
on just about any
o be presi-
Video, the
country.
give clients
e."

SPIN CITY

the experience of ex-
he introduction of the
active listening station
hrough all the songs of
ace an order and con-
e use of the fingers.
iced shoppers with lis-
ut to be not totally re-
ioyment, playing only
l period of time, say, a
r claims, Odyssey has
r stations obsolete.
ay of bringing people back to the stores by allowing them to sample the merchandise pre-purchase. He asked Odyssey's IT man, Ben Alegre, to create a software program that would do just that.

The MoBo looks like a funky ATM. The screen, which displays icons like the average desktop computer, also functions as keyboard. These icons indicate music categories—rock, pop, OPM, hip-hop, classical, standard, contemporary, soundtracks. Or the user could be guided by three classifications—top selling, new releases, or browse-by-artist.

Only the top 20 selling albums have so far been uploaded on the MoBo. Fonacier explains that it will take a little more time to put the entire store inventory "at the buyer's fingertips."

Meanwhile, what are the top selling albums at Odyssey?

The flagship store's MoBo at the Power Plant Mall in Makati shows there is indeed a bossa nova trend, with Sitti's "Café Bossa" CD still doing good and opening doors to some 30 other bossa nova titles in the new releases section. Other certified hits include Joey de Leon's "Joey to the World," Lea Salonga's "Inspired" and the latest works of a slew of Pinoy rock bands led by Parokya Ni Edgar and Rivermaya.

Another MoBo attraction is downloading, which is currently very popular with the arrival of multi-feature cell phones and MP3 players. One can sample and download ring tones, wallpapers, logos, videos and JAVA games—regardless of telecom network provider—as well as full tracks of songs—all at popular prices.

Licensing problems

Downloading songs into an iPod, however, may also take some time due to licensing problems, although Fonacier says Steve Jobs, Apple co-founder and CEO, has just called on all record labels to come to an agreement that would resolve the issue for all iPod users in any country.

The MoBo is available only at Odyssey's Power Plant Mall, Greenbelt, Gateway, SM Mall of Asia and Megamall outlets. But Fonacier says the plan is for the gizmo to be installed in all 90 branches nationwide.

He also wants to see the day when the MoBo would be as ubiquitous as a stand-alone music store that one can find inside a coffee shop or supermarket.

At the moment, the mild surprise at Odyssey is this: All Beatles albums, and those by Chuck Berry and Jerry Lee Lewis, are now categorized as "standards"—cozily sharing space with the likes of Pat Boone, Bing Crosby, Johnny Cash, Patsy Cline, Connie Francis, Hank Williams and Frank Sinatra.

lsay Lohan behind

From page K1

omething in Las Vegas because
here there. Las Vegas is the one
't really enjoy gambling and
nuch rather put money into
New York, too. My mom will
urse.

rd to?

more settled. I'm living in an
but I was not comfortable liv-
So I was at the Chateau Mar-
ow, I'm not. My apartment is
other things. I'd like to get a
nfortable with myself.

eption about you?

ily resent that term party girl.
t I do or what I want to say be-
ed into the drama. These are
The stories that they write...

**tal guidance. Can you talk
family?**

h a lot. I really respect every-
er is getting back from college
nts to do what I want to do. I
ys soccer. My dad was a lot to
I can't really judge him based
se he is his own person.

**gia, your character's grand-
es in her house. What about
es?**

ake the bed. That's something
me. Because if I'm in a hotel, I
bed). I didn't do that for a very
thing I was lucky about grow-
n't suffocating as a parent. She
what I would come in contact
e.

ith your own grandmother?

r so much more than to my
ens to my grandmother. My
oman.

**e checking into Wonderland
u fighting bulimia?**

e to go to Wonderland myself
geable. I wasn't taking care of
ht decisions and I didn't know
tention, I said, "I need to take
a big girl this time."
ed to be more expressive and
ther than just attack someone

hab, has your set of friends

er. I can't say though that I'm
n I turn 21. If I say that, I'm go-
what happens then. My friends
people every day.

about your rehab episode?

t so much out that she started crying. I didn't even know she had that in her because she plays it so tough like I did. She is pretty observant and she has witnessed a lot, especially between my parents. I want her to see what it was like (for me) so she'd never want to be in a place like that. I love her to death.

"I hope to get more settled."

So what are the words that you would like to see printed about you, for a change?

Possible Golden Globe (winner). Now I'm turning bright pink. At this point, anything positive. I'm so afraid people are going to misconstrue the person that I am just because of one picture of me not making the nicest face. They will use it and say, "Lindsay was really drunk, da, da, da."

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

FEEDBACK

Surviving cancer

From Edielyn Gregg (edielyn@yahoo.com), PO Box 5448 Florence, SC 29502:

I HOPE THIS E-MAIL WOULD REACH MY FAVORITE STAR, RUDY Fernandez, who is afflicted with periampullary cancer.

Here in the US, many have fought this deadly disease and some survived. The Discovery Health Channel recently featured journalist Leroy Sievers' conversations with seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong, testicular cancer survivor, and Elizabeth Edwards, wife of former Senator John Edwards, who was diagnosed with breast cancer.

"Living with Cancer," hosted by Ted Koppel, also had discussions about different types of cancers. Survivors featured include oncologists and nurses.

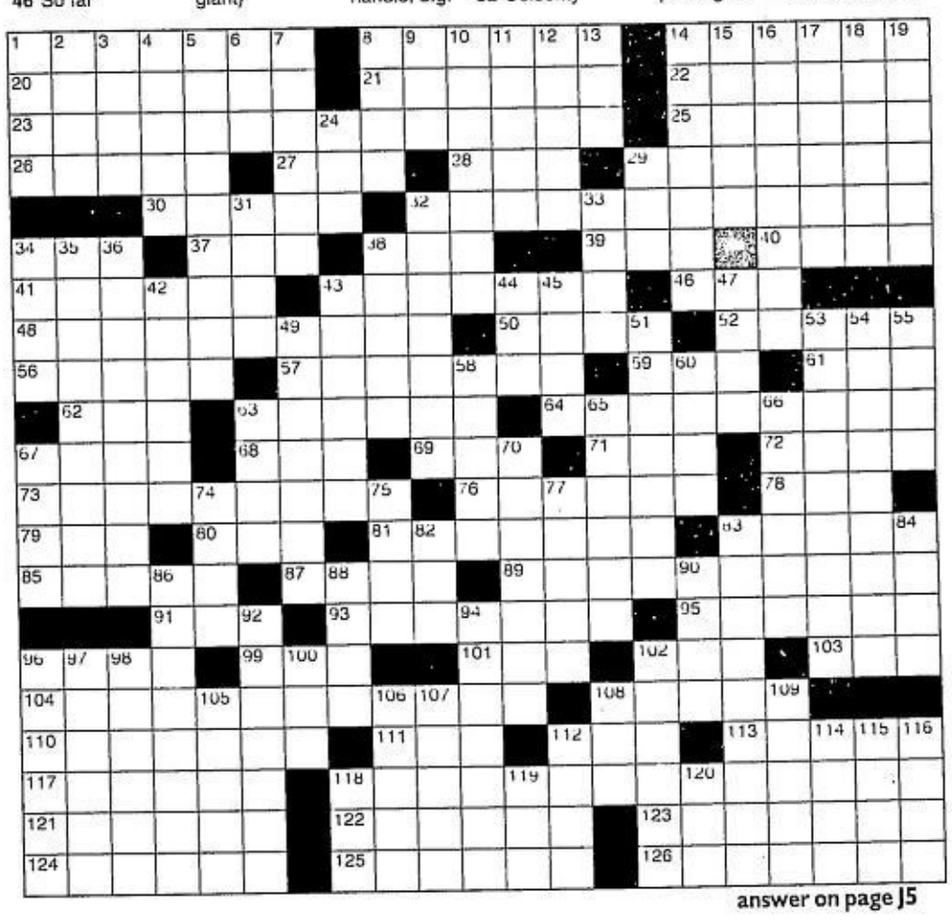
Best regards.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo LIKE DAUGHTER

ACROSS
1 Littered about
8 Video game gallery
14 More massive
20 Political satirist P.J.
21 Arthurian magician
22 Nissan car model
23 "Mother" star, and the mother of 104-Across
25 Macaw, e.g.
26 "I can just — now"
27 Month, in Mexico
28 Had a victory
29 Marked with stripes
30 Web sales
32 "Huff" Emmy winner, and the mother of 118-Across
34 Fade away
37 Overhead rails
38 Make haste
39 Not be well
40 Wanders (about)
41 Actor Lorne
43 Fuddy-duddy
46 So far
48 "Cactus Flower" Oscar winner, and the mother of 89-Across
50 Is unable to
52 NFL coach Don
56 Flock of wild fowl
57 1987 hit for the Pet Shop Boys
59 Traitor
61 Silent "OK"
62 Enjoy a meal
63 In one's house
64 "Carnosaur" star, and the mother of 73-Across
67 Ship of mythology
68 "Evita" role Guevara
69 Sci-fi figures
71 Clamor
72 Fruit drinks
73 "Jurassic Park" co-star
76 Blooms of Holland
78 ER hookups
79 Get along in years
80 TV hookup
81 Adonises
83 — -Lay (snack food giant)
85 Twilled fabric
87 Words to Brutus
89 "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days" co-star
91 Abbr. on a naval vessel
93 Baskin- — ice cream
95 Not yet in the mail
96 Close noisily
99 Virtuoso
101 Classic Olds
102 London's "Big" bell
103 God, to Gaius
104 "Star Wars" co-star
108 Gussied (up)
110 Rearranged
111 Many eras
112 Simple math problem
113 Saint — (one of the Windward islands)
117 Expired
118 "Emma" star
121 She loved Lancelot
122 New Orleans university
123 Accomplish
124 Comic Gilda
125 Doorknob or handle, e.g.
126 Carrot-top

DOWN
1 Grass mats
2 Arbor unit
3 Judge's garb
4 Jazz pianist Blake
5 Added to the ballot on voting day
6 Supplement, with "out"
7 Skin layer
8 Sedaris and Tan
9 Sidekick of Stimpy
10 Occult writer Aleister —
11 Brass, e.g.
12 Failed to
13 USN rank
14 In a lifeless manner
15 "George & —" (TV talk show)
16 Brawn
17 Capital of Albania
18 Was hammy
19 People appraising
24 Wiggly fish
29 Tropical garland
31 Sheltered, to a sailor
32 Celebrity
33 Grammy-winning violinist Hilary
34 Nest fillers
35 E*Trade is one
36 Harass
38 "In what way?"
42 Blue-penciler
43 Dad
44 Henri's "here"
45 Hourglass fill
47 Punta del —
49 Brief greeting
51 Gallivant
53 Without counsel
54 Iron attractor
55 Totals up
58 Brief brawl
60 Raggedy — (some dolls)
63 Dual elec. designation
65 Imbeciles
66 Scottish landowners
67 "How sad"
70 More morose
74 Rd. crossers
75 Post-WWII alliance
77 Extensive grassy plain
82 Ale offerer
83 Used a pouring aid
84 Informed of
86 Sticky plant exudation
88 Marina Sirtis' "Star Trek" role
90 Tinted
92 Leadfoot
94 Actress Eileen
96 Mountaineer in action
97 Syllables sung when you forget the lyrics
98 Sketchbook, e.g.
100 "Mayberry —" (old TV show)
102 Protective car guard
105 "Fame" singer Cara
106 Finalize
107 Card game expert Edmond
108 "Isn't that obvious?!"
109 Of Holland
112 Suffix with poll
114 Rock's Motley —
115 Teensy bit
116 Stupefied
118 Old Pontiac
119 Compass pt.
120 Hacking tool



answer on page J5

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Lost in the long card shuffle

Extended game scenes in 'Lucky You' look like a poker how-to guide

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

THOSE WHO ASSUME THAT "LUCKY YOU" is a typical date movie or chick flick based on the cutesy poster or trailer are in for a disappointment.

Having Drew Barrymore in it may lead one to believe that, yeah, it's a feel-good movie about the dating and mating game. Not so.

Its trailer seems to hint that the entire film may be one welcome sap fest. But almost the entire love angle previewed takes its course in about 40 or so minutes, and there's no turning back when a viewer finds himself privy to the life of a smooth-talking card player who has serious gambling and kleptomania problems, and unresolved issues with his daddy.

That professional poker player is Huck Cheever (Eric Bana), whose whirlwind romance with bar singer Billie Offer (Barrymore) starts off as sweet and romcom-y, but soon ends up as a candy-coated farce. Huck can't keep his hot mitts off her, but that attention extends to the contents of her purse. However, Billie, not long after being duped, gives her new emotionally stunted lover a second chance and tries to get to the root of his unhealthy obsessions.

As the outsider in Huck's world, she's the eyes and ears, but her character completely vanishes for a long time and one fails to notice she's missing until much later. What takes the place of the problematic romance is Huck's likewise problematic relationship with his father, L.C. Cheever (Robert Duvall), a revered poker champ and his former mentor.

So we get the obvious allegories that pertain to the younger Cheever's unparalleled skill at the poker table, and his lack of real connection to his life outside the gambling premises. But the scenes when the father-son rivals butt heads and bet recklessly are easily among the movie's few authentically entertaining ones.

Unbelievably tedious

This drama once again proves Curtis Hanson's ("LA Confidential," "8 Mile") versatility and honed narrative skills, but it does get unbelievably tedious in some parts when it zooms in on the extended card games. At first, it seems like a how-to guide for poker-playing, as Billie sits in to watch a game unfold, so those who know nothing about it can get a basic grasp of the proceedings.

But the games repeat endlessly. Just like in "Casino Royale," the dragging poker tournament parts here tend to keep non-aficionados uninvolved, even when they're the most obvious opportunities for the protagonist to show off some spunk and attitude.

TOUGH LUCK. Eric Bana and Drew Barrymore play lovers in a dragging version of "Casino Royale."

Bana spars well with Duvall and has some short-lived chemistry with Barrymore, who is hard to buy as a singer. She resurfaces after the beleaguered boyfriend's drama is resolved, but by that time, she's a non-entity and doesn't even figure into the equation anymore.

"Lucky You" isn't a dark, cautionary tale; although one wishes it had taken that direction instead. And those long poker scenes wasted a lot of time to get to such a lukewarm, unspectacular conclusion.

A Tribute to Mothers from Johnson's baby

Pauline Espiritu, Corporate Executive
"I recall that after every bath, my mama would always dab Johnson's Baby Powder all over my body, neck and armpits. In the middle of the day she would call me over to check if I still smelled baby-like. When I became a mom, I swear my kids were "Johnson's Baby-ed," bathing them with Top-To-Toe Wash when they were babies and applying Johnson's Baby Oil on their hair. Up to now, they use Johnson's Baby Shampoo with wheat germ, powder, lotion & cologne. I also have this habit of smelling them every now and then to make sure 'amoy baby sila, the way my mother did."

Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo, Celebrity Mom
"I am a Johnson's Baby kid. I grew up with all of the Johnson's Baby products, and I still use all of them. My fondest memories with Johnson's Baby is bath time. It is the most fun thing to do, especially on a hot day. I also loved playing with the bubbles and suds! Johnson's Baby is a product that I have relied on for so long, I know all the products by heart. I cannot imagine using anything else, especially for my son, Jacobo."

Melinda B. Ilagan, PR Consultant
"I am one of the many Johnson's babies that have grown past the years of adolescence and have become a mommy myself but still keep Johnson's in my bag or my daughter's wherever we go. My personal favorites are Johnson's Baby Powder and Johnson's Baby Cologne, especially the Blossoms and Heaven scents, respectively. The scents of all the products are simply lovely! I associate the scent with a bed adorned with baby pillows and a soft, cotton baby blanket that's a heavenly place to be."

Via Reyes-Abaño, Marketing Executive
"I've always been a Johnson's Baby girl! My fondest memory as a child was my Mom washing my hair with Johnson's Baby Shampoo. Now that I have my own daughter, Amelie, I love doing the same. Smelling her hair after a bath is one of my favorite parts of my day. The scent symbolizes the memories of my Mom and I and the new memories I now make with Amelie."

Venus Castillo, Mother & Grandmother
"Johnson's Baby products have been a part of our lives as far as I can remember. I've used it and still do. I've used it on my children and they still use it until now. And now, I use it on my granddaughter as well! Her mom uses nothing else but Johnson's Baby products. That's three generations now. We would not trust anything else."

Johnson's Celebrates Generations of Caring

Becoming a mother is a journey filled with wonderful and challenging new experiences. From bathing your newborn for the very first time, helping your toddler with his first steps, to family vacations with older children. Each day offers something new. From babies, mothers, grandmothers and even great grandmothers, Johnson's Baby products have become a partner, a part of the everyday lives of millions of women in caring for their loved ones. With its commitment in providing safe, gentle, clinically proven mild products, Johnson's Baby has become the most trusted name in baby care. But more than the great formulations that Johnson's has invented, comes a deep understanding in helping mothers cope during difficult instances, soothe in some situations, and enrich relationships in the way the brand has touched lives.

Johnson's Baby has remained committed in providing mothers with innovative and effective products that go hand in hand with the special moments they enjoy with their children. For example, by considering the point of view of an infant, Johnson's developed a shampoo that cleans baby's hair and scalp without the sting on the eyes and without drying the hair and skin. By taking the sting out of baby shampoo, Johnson's also took away kids' fear of bath time, along with parents' guilt over this oftentimes difficult baby care ritual. The bath, instead, has become an icon of good parenting, and something that parents and children alike look forward to. Johnson's has made unpleasant experiences and transformed them into cherished rituals.

Safety, comfort and gentleness, through the No More Tears® Formulation and Clinically Proven Mildness® assurance, are always ensured in each and every Johnson's Baby product, from baby baths, soaps, lotions, shampoos, powders, and oils. Backed by over 100 years of trust and expertise, the products work to make sure that mommy's and baby's skin care needs are met with every use.

Generations of mothers have trusted Johnson's Baby products. The brand embodies the nurturing care of a mother. It is the recognized expert in baby care by both consumers and health care professionals alike. For decades, Johnson's Baby has been the No. 1 choice for all the moms when they look for a perfect partner to pamper and care for their children. This Mother's day, Johnson's Baby pays tribute to all the mothers who have come to trust the brand to care for their precious little angels. This is how Johnson's Baby has been part of the lives of countless mothers and children.

Sweet Plantado, Singer, The Company
"Johnson's Baby products have definitely been a huge part of my growing up years. For me and my siblings, my mom used Johnson's Baby Powder, Johnson's Baby Shampoo and Johnson's Baby Cologne and even as we were growing up, we were always attached to the Johnson's smell. When I was pregnant, my mom told me to use Johnson's Cornstarch Powder on my then, very itchy belly... what a relief. Now that I am a mom, it's nothing but Johnson's products for my precious Gabo. I'm extremely happy to be given the privilege of singing the new Johnson's Baby jingle. Thank you Johnson's for coming up with the Baby Bedtime products, Gabo definitely loves his night bath with the baby wash and likes to be massaged with the Bedtime Lotion!"

Darl Sanchez, Manager
"Mama used only Johnson's Baby products on me and my sisters when we were kids. Until now, the scent of Johnson's Baby Powder with Johnson's Baby Cologne still takes me back in time and makes me smile, which is why I use it on Miguel. I just love his Johnson's Baby scent!"

Michelle Meer, Businesswoman
"To me, Johnson's Baby products bring the feeling of comfort brought about by familiarity. I have used Johnson's Baby products since I was a kid. I still use the Johnson's Baby lotion, powder and oil on myself. And now that I am a mother to Nico, Enrique and Emmanuel, I use Johnson's Baby shampoo, lotion, powder and cologne on them too. I know that with Johnson's Baby, they will get only th best cleansing, care, and pampering."

Carmita Francisco-Urra, Mother and Grandmother
"Romina, being my only child, is a special blessing and grace. I cherish every moment I spend with her and her daughter, Carmen. I was a busy hotel executive when Romina was growing up but managed to give her quality time especially at bedtime when I would give her a "Johnson's Baby massage" before going to sleep. I made sure she had a fun time by making up my own children's stories and singing and dancing with her. Like most young mothers today, Romina is more hands-on with Carmen, and together with her husband, they are raising her with a lot of love, tempered with discipline, because Carmen has a strong character and is super bright. I am not allowed to spoil her but we have our special funny games together and hearing her peals of laughter is such a joy!"

Monique Realica, Commercial Model
"Giving my baby, Papuri, a bath is like being transported back in time. Washing her with Johnson's Baby Bath just stirs up the memories like feeling refreshed with powder on my back and the pink lotion rub right after baths. There is something about the lingering scent of Johnson's Baby products that gives me a feeling of comfort, security and calm. I carry these special memories with me now that I am a mom. I trust Johnson's Baby products on my most precious little girl just like my own mom did with me."

Athens C. Ajon, Senior Media Planner
"My mom used to massage my body with Johnson's Baby Oil when I was a baby. She says it helped me relax and relieved my discomfort. Now, I'm doing the same with my baby, Fiona. I massage her everyday, and this has become one of my favorite bonding activities with her."

Romina Urra-Gonzales, Former Metro editor, now contributor to Metro Working Mom and consultant of Metro Wedding
"Through my mom's example, I learned how important it is to not only give, give, give to my child but to also take time out to give importance to myself. NOURISHING THE MIND: Mom encouraged me to do things on my own, to travel and to learn. NOURISHING MY SPIRIT: Mom constantly exposed me to her many organizations where she was able to give back. She always put importance to generosity and reaching out. NOURISHING MY BODY: Even when I was a toddler, my mom would religiously work out to Jane Fonda, and now golf. I remember how she always paid attention to her skin --- all her high-tech creams and high-potency lotions, Johnson's Baby Oil and a slew of makeup and colognes were staples in her tokador. She taught me that by nourishing my mind, my spirit, and my body well, I can be the best mommy to my little girl."

Jackie Soriano-Bautista, Media Executive
"Having two daughters to groom and take care of, my mom only trusted Johnson's Baby products. As babies, she gently massaged our fragile bodies with Johnson's Baby Oil. As kids, she only used Johnson's Baby Shampoo on our delicate hair to keep the tears at bay. As young ladies, she taught us to keep our skin smooth and nurtured with Johnson's Baby Lotion.

Now that I am a mother to a three-year old boy, I likewise trust only Johnson's. My Santino is a very active boy and tends to easily perspire but I am not bothered because there's always Johnson's Baby Powder to keep him dry and fresh."

Daphne Oseña-Paez, TV host, about her mother Rose Sarmiento-Oseña
"My mom tells me she is amazed at how I am able to be hands-on with the baby care aspect of motherhood despite my having helpers and yayas. What my mom doesn't realize is that she is the one who inspired me to be the best mom I can be. My mom had a dynamic social and work life but her priority always was and is her family. She is the kind of woman I want to be – fulfilled in every aspect of life but most importantly a success as a wife and mother. But the one important thing I learned from my mom is that to be a good mother, a woman must have a life of her own. That means having the dignity of work (whether stay-at-home or career) and most importantly loving her spouse. This is the kind of mothering/parenting I want to give to my two daughters Sophia and Lily Paloma."

Tin-tin Villablanca-Deocareza, Corporate Executive
"Reminiscing my younger years... unlike other Moms and babies/kids, I eagerly looked forward to bath-time because it was a special bonding moment for me with either Mom or Lola. Bathing was made easy for me because we used Johnson's Baby Shampoo! Now that I am a mother to 2 lovely daughters, Sasha and Sam, I make sure that I pass on to them the same memorable bathing experience. Bathing is not only our time to interact and bond with one another, but this is also a time for me to make sure they know that I love them."

L-2

Zinnia Rivera, Mother, CEO and Managing Director of JOHNSON & JOHNSON, PHILIPPINES

Striving to be a Super Mom

When it comes to nurturing, no one does it better than mothers. Birth and infancy forge the bond that lasts all throughout childhood and adulthood, creating a lifetime of laughter, tears, arguments, and smiles. These are the basic, time-honored duties of motherhood – being there for your family emotionally and physically. But although such traditional obligations are still required today, being a mother has evolved into a more complex set of duties, creating the concept fondly known as SuperMom.

SuperMom is an incredible woman. SuperMom knows exactly what needs to be done and when to do it. She's present at every school play and basketball game, as well as every staff meeting and corporate function. She can successfully put on Johnson's Baby Powder on the back of her kids in the same way that she successfully tends to the details of the company's latest acquisition. Every mother would love to be SuperMom. Unfortunately, she doesn't exist because SuperMom is perfect. In reality, SuperMom is an ideal, a vision of motherly excellence that women aspire to be. In a modern world where juggling career and family is a must, more and more mothers need inspiration and assurance that success in both endeavors is a possibility.

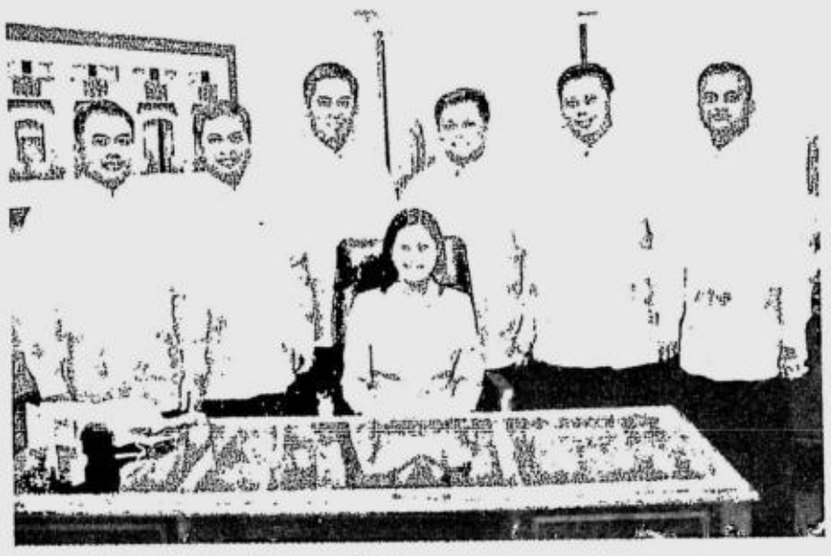
Zinnia Rivera, President and Managing Director of Johnson & Johnson Philippines, is one such inspiration. As a working woman, wife, and mother of 4 children, Zinnia is more than familiar with the difficulties of managing a lucrative career and being mother to a flourishing family.

"Balancing family life and work life is a day-to-day struggle. For the past several years, I'd like to think that I've learned the art of balancing these two opposing demands in my life. I'm not perfect, but I'm getting better," says Zinnia. "I really have to make myself efficient, meaning I have to do a lot more things given a shorter period of time. I have to set my priorities straight."

Like many working moms, her priorities revolve around a 24-hour time frame, all of which she delegates to the various demands of her life.

"I typically spend at least 10 hours in the office. I catch up with my family for dinner, then attend to other domestic responsibilities. I still put my two younger kids to bed," Zinnia adds.

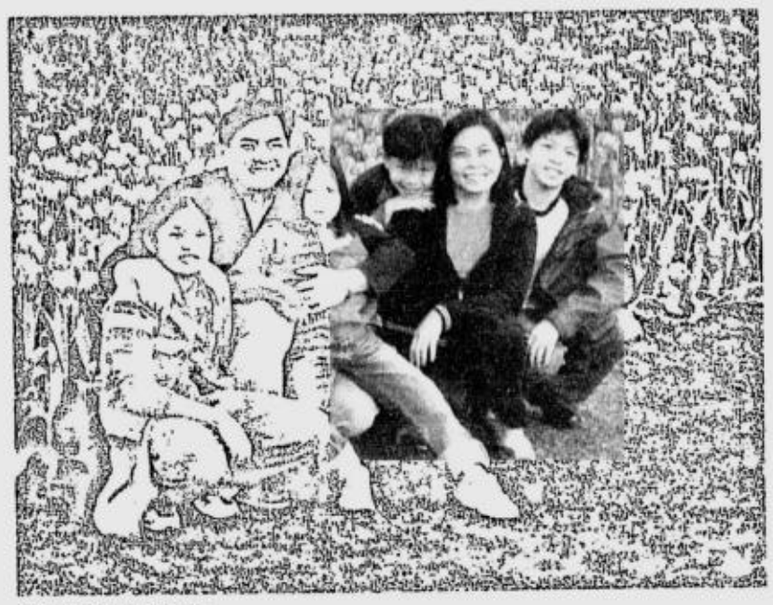
For Zinnia, the responsibilities are doubled because there are two families that she must attend to – the family she shares a home with and the Johnson & Johnson family that she leads. Both responsibilities are demanding, but over the years Zinnia has managed to strike a positive balance between what she believes are the hurdles of a working mother.



Zinnia with J&J Philippines Management Board

Zinnia explains, "For me it's a triangle, a tripod. It's one thing to spend time at work, another to spend time with the family, and in both, you are giving out to others. But there's also a third component, which is giving something to yourself because you have to nurture yourself to be able to give to your work and your family. And I think that third component is the most important, and most overlooked."

Zinnia stresses the importance of taking care of oneself in order to be effective in the office as well as the home. "Every weekend I play tennis and after that, I have a massage. It's really a routine that I always try to protect no matter how busy my weekend schedule is. Sunday mornings are really my time. After that my kids can do anything with me, I'm all theirs."



Zinnia with her Family

Setting priorities and creating a solid support system is integral to finding that sought after work-life balance, which she believes Johnson & Johnson understands. In many ways, Zinnia's life at home mirrors the success of the company.

"This company understands the demands of a working mother. It supports work-life balance for its employees. J&J's corporate values like integrity, passion for excellence & people-orientation are very applicable to home life as well. This congruence helps me attain the balance that I need between my personal life and work life."

It is because of this successful work-life balance that Zinnia embodies Johnson & Johnson's Baby Milk's "*Mommy Kaming Bahala Sa Alaga*" campaign. All over the country, millions of mothers strive for the SuperMom ideal. But oftentimes, through all their efforts, they often neglect to care for themselves. With Johnson Baby's "*Mommy Kaming Bahala Sa Alaga*" campaign, mothers are given the attention they deserve and the chance to renew their tired spirits. Johnson's Baby Milk understands the demands of balancing your life and strives to celebrate motherhood and all it entails, by providing moms with products that simplify their lives. With the Johnson's Baby Milk range, moms are lavishly treated to milk's numerous health benefits.

Every mother needs to renew her spirit once in a while, an important part of life that helps make Zinnia Rivera a successful mother both at home and in the office. But if the demands of your life won't let you, then let Johnson & Johnson lend a renewing hand. You can be sure that it's a hand that understands exactly where you're coming from. Because every mom deserves it, because every mom is already super. Happy Mother's Day!

The Indelible Mark of Great Mothers

Johnson's has always paid tribute to mothers. In the many products it has launched and in their TV commercials, the Filipina mother has always been the inspiration of the brand.

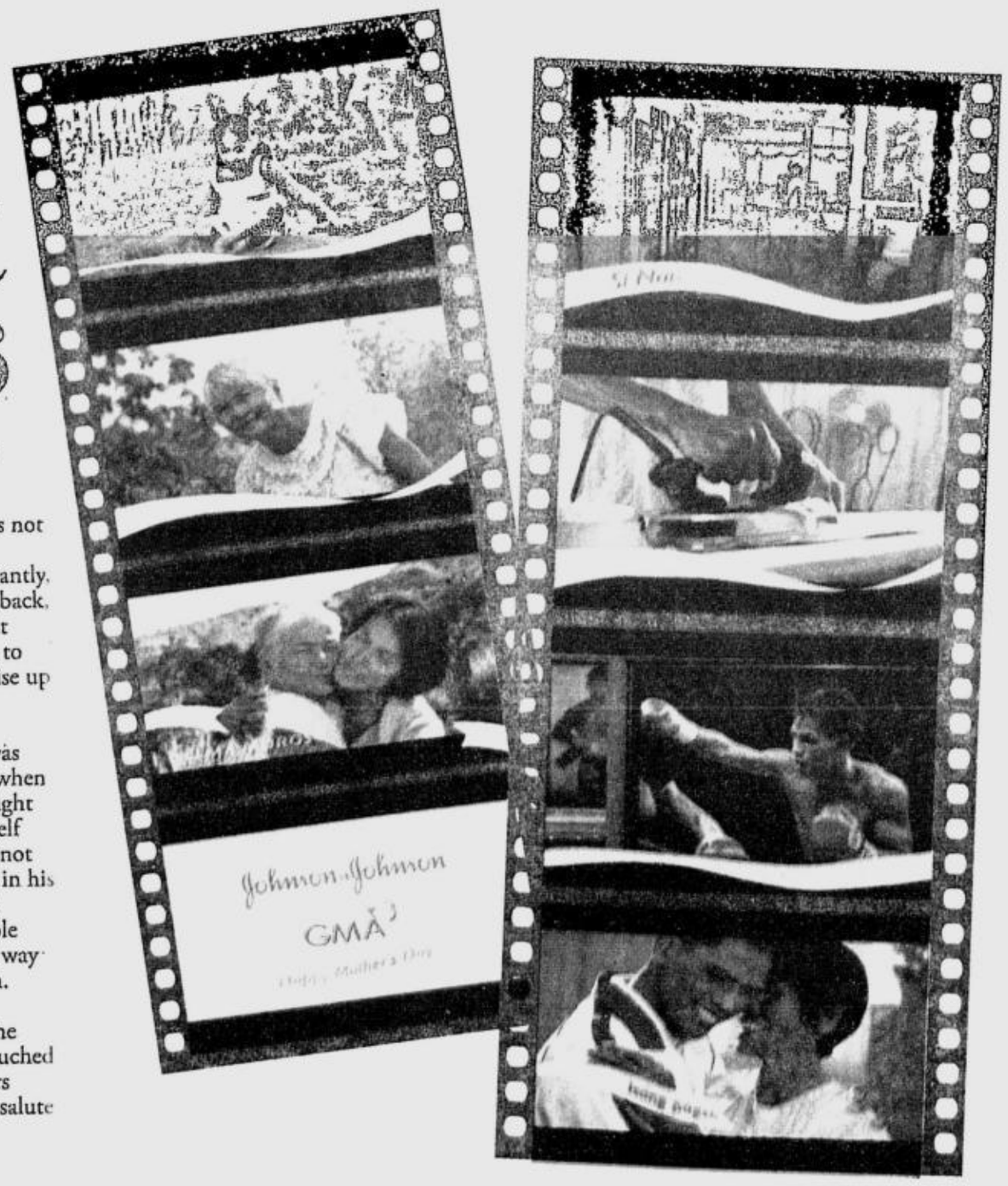
And so every Mother's Day, the company comes up with a special tribute to mothers to honor them for the very important role they play in nurturing, molding and loving babies who have overcome obstacles and displayed exemplary performances despite the odds.

This year, Johnson's pays tribute to two extraordinary mothers. The first collaborative work done with the News and Public Affairs Team of GMA 7, the 30-second materials show a flashback of Elma Muros, Southeast Asia's fastest woman, and Abe Concepcion, World Bantamweight Boxing Champion, on how their respective mothers taught them how to hone their talents and inspired them to live more meaningful lives.

Elma's account of how her mother allowed her to feel the pain of stumbling and encouraged her to gather the strength to stand up was not just a primordial lesson for track & field, but more importantly, a great lesson in life. As she looks back, she would say this single important lesson from her mother allows her to face the future with courage and rise up every time she falls.

Abe remembers that as a kid, he was frail and therefore, afraid to fight when he was bullied. His mother's thought on protecting and defending oneself gave him the brave spirit to fight, not just in the boxing arena, but even in his life. He has faced many odds and challenges coming from his humble beginnings, but he has fought his way to become a new world champion.

These are two great examples of the many ways our lives have been touched and enriched by what our mothers taught us. GMA7 and Johnson's salute all mothers on this special day.



Strengthening the Tie that Binds

Mothers the world over can attest to the intangible connection they feel with their child.

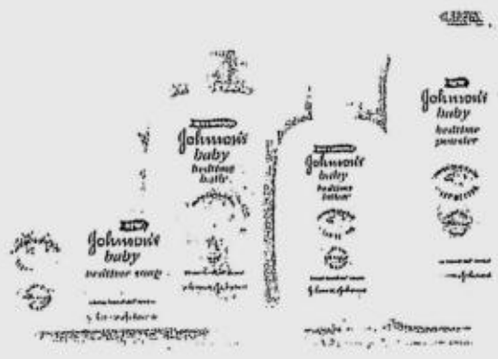
It is one of the purest and strongest bonds in nature, a relationship unlike any other and second to none in importance. From the time we are conceived in the womb, from the first affirming heartbeat, accompanied by the first feeling of nurturing love, the bond begins. And it never really ends.

As the relationship between a mother and child grows, the more she needs to be able to trust the environment that surrounds her baby, from the food she feeds him to the care she provides that keeps him clean and happy. Since this sacred union demands respect and deserves the very best in care and nurturing, only the finest and safest products are entrusted to its keeping. When it comes to baby care, no one does it better than the ones who understand it best.

Since its establishment in 1886, Johnson & Johnson has continuously innovated its products to provide only the best possible care for mothers and their babies. No other brand heralds Johnson's Baby's long history of providing safe and gentle products, making it the most trusted choice for both mommy and baby. From powders, lotions, to shampoos, the familiar scent of Johnson's Baby products is reminiscent of a child's innocence and a mother's love. The care provided by Johnson's Baby has made the brand a most trusted partner, passed on like heirlooms of health, as grandmothers, mothers, and daughters continue to share Johnson's Baby's nurturing spirit from generation to generation. Today, Johnson's Baby products continue to evolve in an effort to meet and satisfy modern day requirements of mothers and babies, ensuring that the brand grows with them from babyhood to motherhood.

This year, Johnson's Baby meets the needs of modern moms through the **Johnson's Baby Milk "Mommy Kaming Bahala Sa Alaga" and Johnson's Baby Bedtime** campaigns. With a reputation rooted solidly in a history of safe, gentle, and clinically proven mild products, Johnson's Baby looks beyond the products to see the best ways in which both mommy and baby can benefit further.

Our society is constantly changing as careers are juggled with family life and personal time, and Johnson's Baby understands and continuously innovates to meet these new and modern needs of mommies everywhere. Through the *"Mommy Kaming Bahala Sa Alaga"* campaign, Johnson's Baby reiterates the need for mothers to relax and be rejuvenated through the Johnson's Baby Milk range. Indeed, when a woman becomes a mom, her priorities change and her needs take a back seat. That's why with Johnson's Baby Milk Bath and Johnson's Baby Milk Lotion, the magic of milk's natural proteins and Vitamins A & E team up to provide mom's skin with the necessary moisture that makes skin healthier inside and out. Further, the entire campaign and promo reminds mothers that they should always remember to take care of themselves while taking care of their baby. After the great skin care mothers get from Johnson's Baby Milk products, mothers are also treated to holistic care withfree massages in mall tours nationwide, skin care tips via SMS and a chance to win free clothing, photo sessions and a grand spa relaxation holiday in Boracay.



All moms know how important a good night's sleep is for their babies' physical and mental growth and happiness. Hence, they do everything to make their babies sleep well – from endless rocking and singing baby to sleep to waking up in the middle of the night to lull baby back to sleep. It's not an easy task but mothers simply accept this as a necessary sacrifice for their babies. Johnson's Baby fully understands this, that's why they created a Bedtime routine that is clinically proven to help babies fall asleep easier and sleep through the night better. In tandem with the re-launched Johnson's Baby Bedtime range, boasting a new fragrance called NaturalCalm™, a soothing blend of gentle ingredients and calming aromas, a three-step bonding routine will help Moms put baby to sleep for babies' ease and Moms' peace of mind.

The routine begins with a warm bath with Johnson's Baby Bedtime Bath, which has a unique "No More Tears" formula that is as gentle on the eyes as water. This first step induces relaxation for baby.

This is followed by a soothing massage with Johnson's Baby Bedtime Lotion, which helps keep baby's skin naturally soft. Giving baby a massage not only releases stress and anxiety but also intensifies the bond between mom and baby.

The third and final step is quiet time between mom and baby, when mom's loving touch takes baby to dreamland. Quiet time can be enhanced by mom quietly reading a book to her baby, humming a lullaby or even playing soothing music. The mood must also be set with a quiet, cool and dim environment.

For over a century, from the first Johnson's Baby Powder launched in 1890 to today's Johnson's Baby Milk and Bedtime innovations, Johnson's Baby has continuously grown and been passed on to every generation. Nothing is as inviolable and pure as the bond mothers have with their children, and combined with the gentle care of Johnson's Baby products, the tie that binds is strengthened with health, happiness, and a mother's love.

An Enduring Promise

The small colored ribbon and the magenta teardrop have become familiar fixtures on JOHNSON's® Baby Products. More than just design elements, they symbolize the sincere promise of quality, mildness, and safety that Johnson & Johnson makes to every parent who uses a JOHNSON's® Baby Product on their child.

The ribbon is part of the brand's **Clinically Proven Mildness®** (CPM) seal, while the teardrop is the symbol for JOHNSON's® Baby's **"NO MORE TEARS®"** (NMT) guarantee. These symbols stem from Johnson & Johnson's intimate understanding of the unique physical and emotional needs of mothers and babies. They play an important role in keeping a mother's bonding moments with her child safe and worry-free.

"Mildness is essential for the special conditions of baby's delicate skin. JOHNSON's® Baby's products with the **"Clinically Proven Mildness®"** seal is proof that the product has been tested above and beyond normal industry standards under the supervision of a medical practitioner in the US. CPM® is more than an acronym. This is a symbol that the product has undergone an extensive and rigorous set of tests to ensure level of product safety appropriate for use on infants. The Johnson & Johnson US Biomedical Department has actually been doing all these tests long before they had the CPM® seal on the product labels. It was only in the late 80s that the seal was used. This seal is unique to Johnson & Johnson and is a registered trademark," explains Ofie Malagkit, Johnson & Johnson's Quality and Technical Assurance Director.

Among the tests that each JOHNSON's® Baby product is subjected to are the following:

1. Sensitization (Repeat Insult Patch Test) – Determines the potential of a product to cause allergic contact response;
2. Phototoxicity – Assesses the potential of ingredients to cause localized irritant reactions when exposed to sunlight;
3. Photosensitization – Determines the potential of a product to cause allergic contact response when exposed to sunlight; and
4. Cumulative irritation – Determines the irritation potential of a topical product left on skin.

A full medical review is further required on all safety assessment data. Only after satisfying the above criteria is a product awarded the "Clinically Proven Mildness®" seal.

While the CPM® seal means that mothers need not worry about how JOHNSON's® Baby products affect their baby's skin, the **"NO MORE TEARS®"** symbol assures mothers of a happy and safe bath time for their children, especially newborns.

Studies have shown that newborns have an underdeveloped blink reflex. They blink less frequently and have a lower level of tear secretion. Mothers, therefore, have to be extra careful in choosing bath products that are not harsh and irritating for the eyes of newborns.

"For the NO MORE TEARS® seal, they do tests in the US wherein the product is tested versus water. The "human ocular irritation test" is done on shampoo and bath products to prove that they are as gentle to the eyes as pure water," says Ofie.

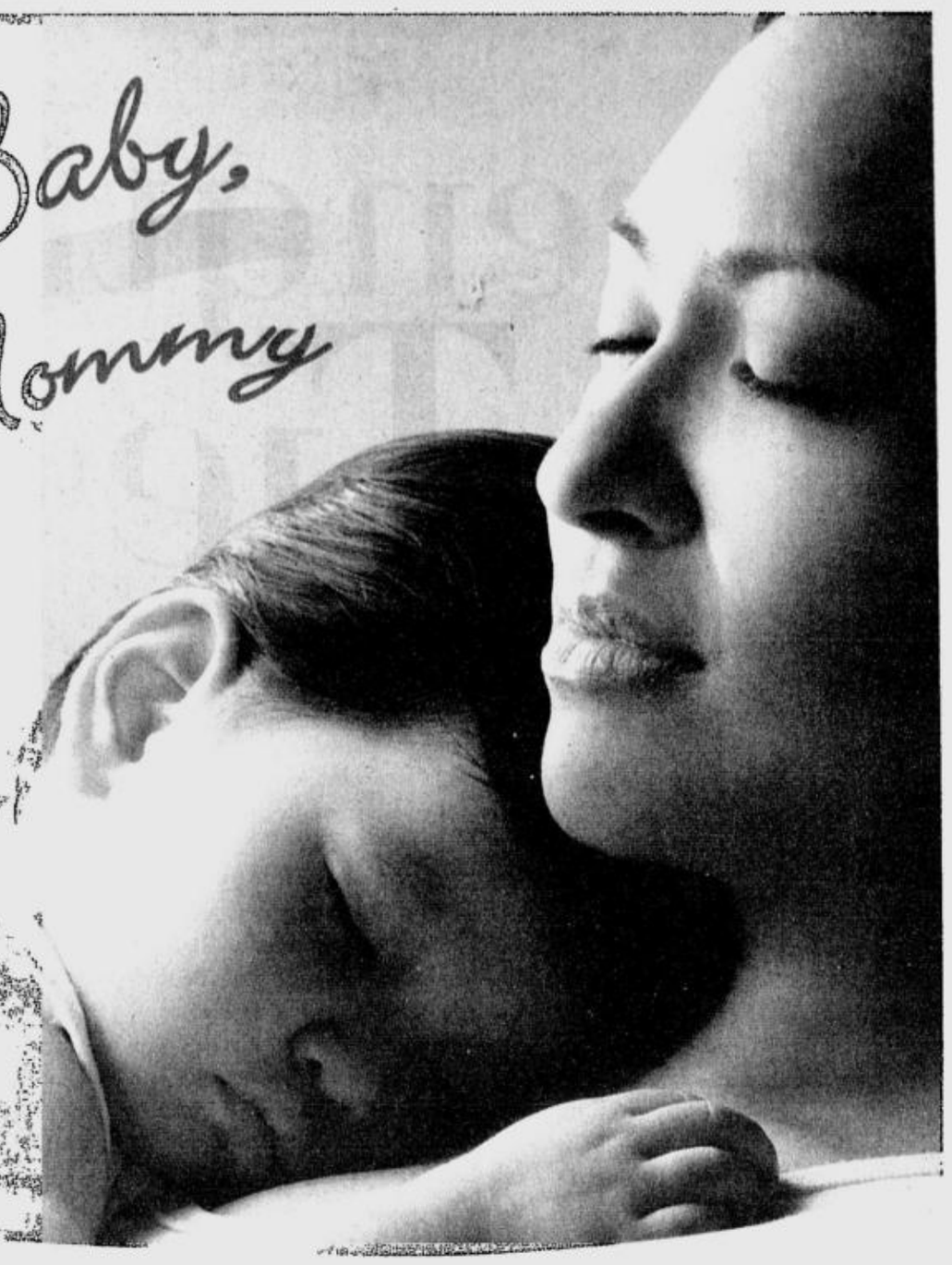
Scientists at Johnson & Johnson conduct an assessment of all the ingredients and approve all testing to pass the **"NO MORE TEARS®"** standards. In summary the testing protocol includes the following:

1. Ingredient assessment
2. Transepithelial permeability assay
3. Huma ocular irritation test
4. Medical review of all safety assessment data.

These tests exceed industry standards, and show the lengths to which Johnson & Johnson goes in order to ensure that consumers get only the very best products.

Beyond the science, testing procedures, colored ribbons and magenta teardrops, however, is Johnson & Johnson's long-standing commitment to the well-being of its consumers. It is a commitment that is renewed each time a product is developed and tested, and a promise that is kept each time a mother cares for her baby with a JOHNSON's® Baby product.

Ang Himbing ni Baby,
Kamay ni Mommy
nasa Gamot



Used with a regular bedtime routine, Johnson's Baby Bedtime range is clinically proven to help baby sleep better.

Johnson's baby bedtime

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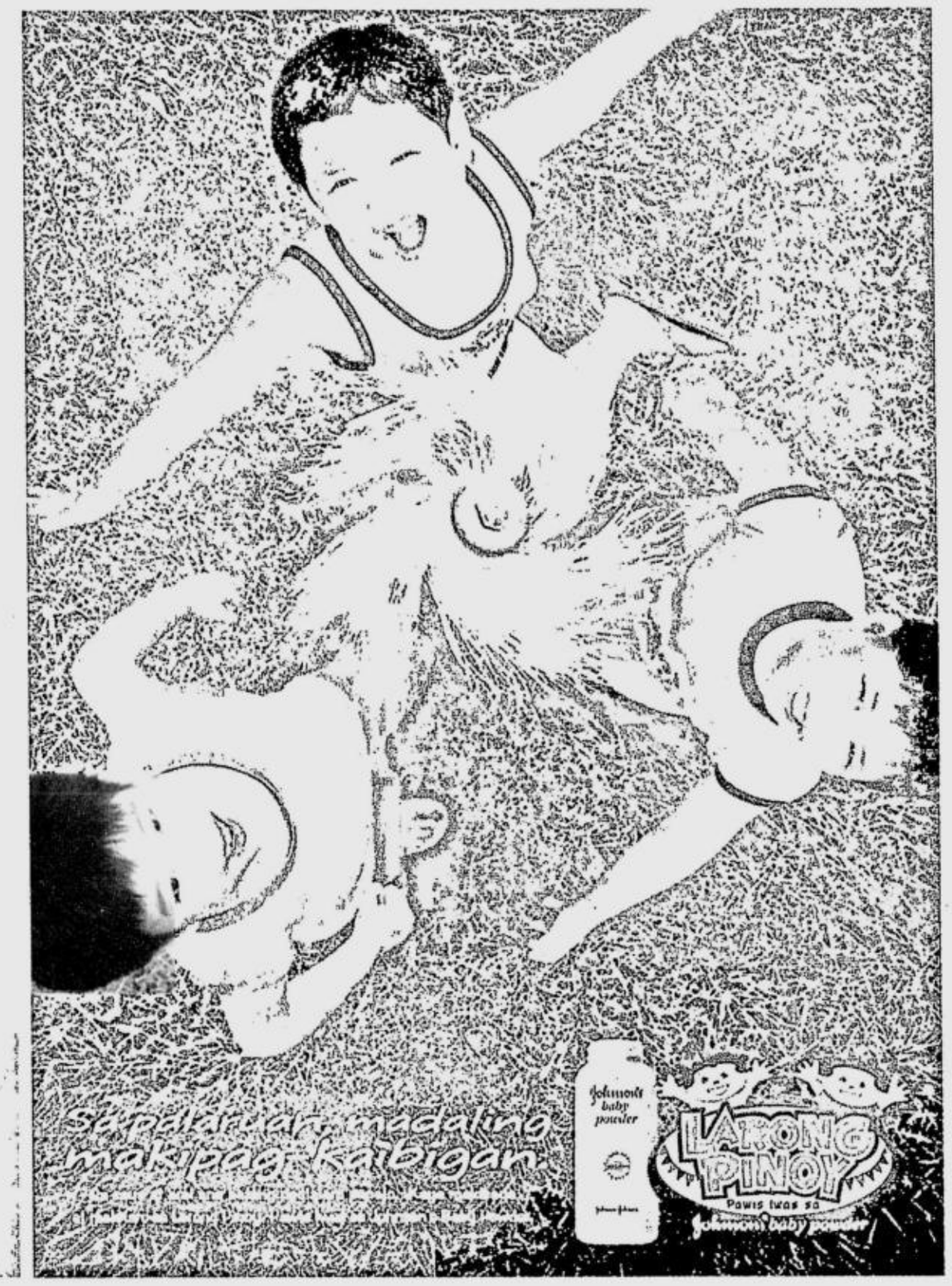


Mother's Day Special

Pool fun for kids, but health sanctuary for *Moms*

By Raquel P. Gomez

SUMMER, SWIMMING POOLS, and children are the perfect components of a fun and even a healthy activity. At Ace Water Spa in Del Monte Avenue in Quezon City, the components of a fun and healthy activity include not only children enjoying a swim in the pools, but a big number of mothers and elderly folks enjoying the warm baths for long hours.

Here children and teenagers enjoying the pool compete in the water fun with their mothers enjoying "water acupuncture" from a rainfall of warm water while sprawled on a tiled bed.

This is because the 3,000-sqm indoor pool facility offers therapeutic hot pools, hydro massages in warm pools, bubble baths, and dizzying numbers of aqua jets, falls and showers that massage every part of the body—water states and forces that define hydrotherapy.

Probably the oldest form of medical treatment, hydrotherapy involves the use of water to treat disease or sooth pains. Hydrotherapy aims to rid the body of toxins that may be causing joint pain and inflammation. The treatment is also helpful in managing chronic conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis. A lot of mothers and the elderly go to Ace Water Spa because of these health benefits.

Popular in Europe, Korea and Taiwan, hydrotherapy is now becoming an accepted notion to getting a healthy body among Filipinos, according to Allan Cobb, general manager of Ace Water Spa, the first European concept spa in the Philippines.

Spa technology from Europe

"There's really a demand for this type of facility in our country," he says, adding that the number of people who frequent the facility has doubled since it opened in March 2005.

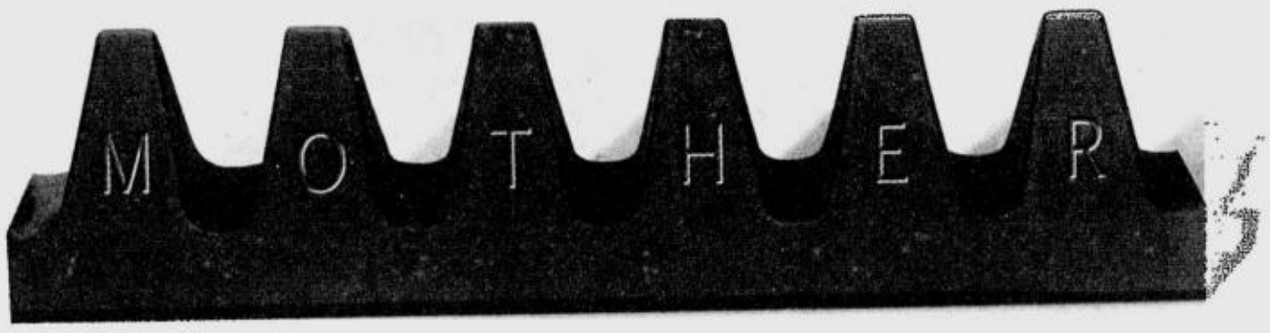
"This is really a health facility and the concept behind it was imported by the owners from Taiwan, where water spas are popular and frequented by retirees. About a thousand people frequent water spas in Taiwan in a day," says Cobb.

Ace Water Spa is comprised of three major water areas—the 25-meter lap pool, the spa area where different hydrotherapy massages can be experienced, and the hot herbal pool. There's also a kiddie pool, steam and sauna room, and the monstrous

MOMS/ M2

Here children enjoy the splash from the kiddie pool while their mothers enjoy 'water acupuncture'

Meant for Moms



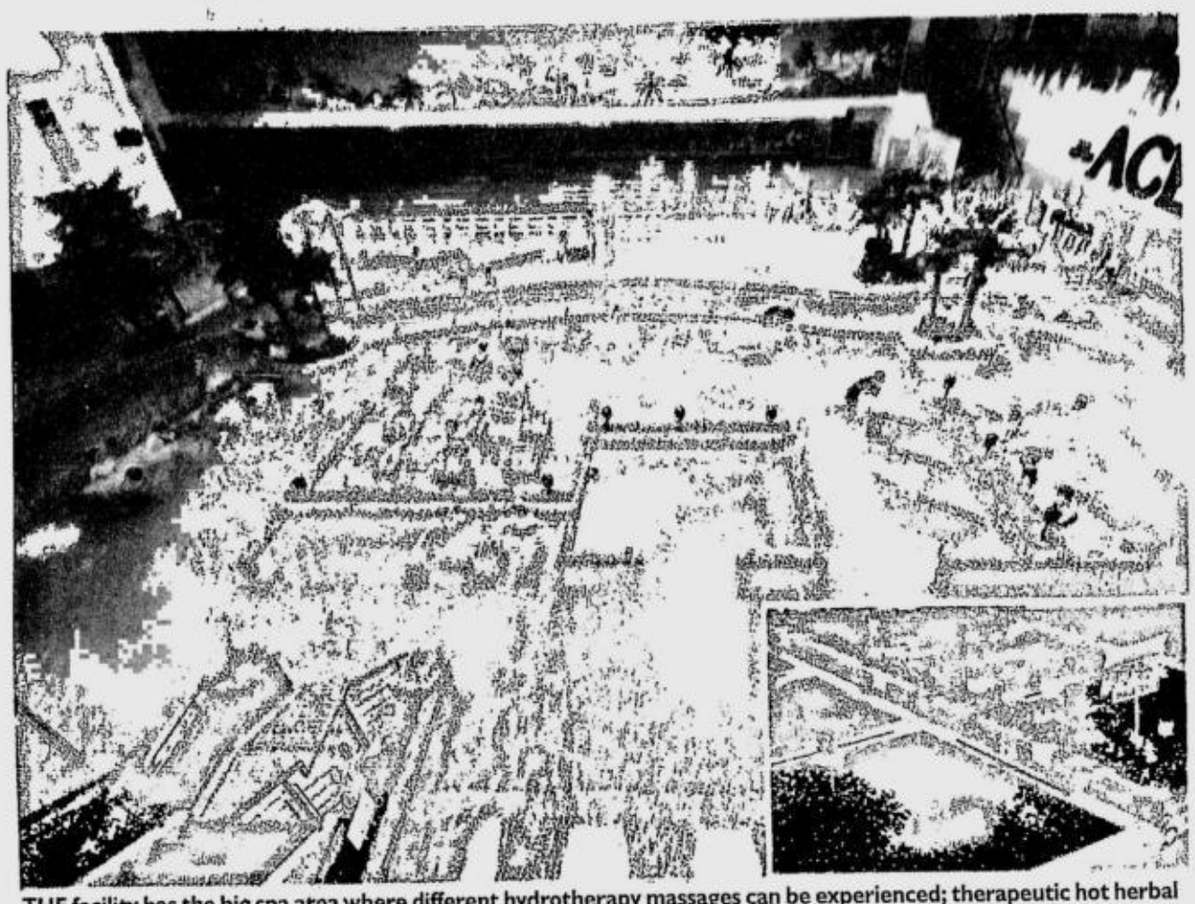
To the warmest, the smartest, the sweetest
– a delicious celebration of your special day.
Happy Mother's Day.

TOBLERONE

The Sweetest Gesture.

Toblerone is a trademark of Kraft Foods.

Pool fun for kids, but health sanctuary for Moms



THE facility has the big spa area where different hydrotherapy massages can be experienced; therapeutic hot herbal pools and a 25-meter lap pool.

From page M1

eight-nozzle shower. Cobb says that spa technology from Europe, where spa treatments have reached high levels of sophistication, was employed for the water spas and therapeutic hot pools.

The 33-degree hot water spa is a series of interconnecting spots where massages for the different parts of the body can be had through the combination of multiple aqua jets from under the water, waterfalls and strong showers from above, and ultrasonic sound from the free-flowing pools.

Bubble bed, bubble massage, bubble pool, rainfall acupuncture, upper body jet massage, and buttocks massage are just some of the therapies available. The promised health benefits from the water spa area run from relieving muscle tension, improving blood circulation, enhancing metabolism to relieving headaches and slimming down.

Alternative to gym

There are six free flowing hot herbal pools with varying temperatures—36, 38, and 40 degrees. Herbs such as lavender, jasmine, and mint are added into the different pools to help relax the dipper while his or her upper back up to the neck area rests on cold rods that conduct massages as well.

After dipping from the hot pool, the person is recommended to dip into the 12-degree cold pool.

"When you dip into the hot pool, the pores of your skin open, so you need to shut it down by dipping into the cold pool," says Cobb who dismisses the Filipinos fear of "*pasma*" —the folk belief that a person gets sick when he or she soaks from hot water then to cold water—as "pure myth." "*Pasma* is not true. It resides only in one's imagination."

However how relaxing they may seem, the hot pools aren't recommended for children and people suffering from heart problems and high blood pressure.

"For old people who have arthritis or diabetes, these pools are very beneficial. It's been proven that twice-a-week hot pool treatment for diabetics can lower the blood sugar level."

Ace Water Spa walk-in rates go for P500 for adults and P250 for children 4 feet and below. For these amounts, members of the family can enjoy almost a five-hour stay in the facility indulging in all the water treatments and fun pools. Lockers, shampoos, soaps and hair caps are provided. Memberships are also available, as well as different promotions.

Cobb says a number of old people who have become regulars have given him positive feedback on the benefits they get from the spa. Old mothers often approach him and tell him they don't feel their joints ache anymore or their arthritis has gone away.

"We want to educate the Filipinos that this is a health facility, not just a summer or weekend amusement area. When you go inside there are posters that tell the health benefits of hydrotherapy. This can even be an alternative to going to a gym."

Unchanging love for changing times

AT 5, LOVING HER WAS EASY. We'd proudly make her personalized cards made from art paper and crayons, earnestly give her flowers picked right out of her garden, make her breakfast in bed (and make a mess of the kitchen too!) or simply smother her with hugs and kisses and give a loud heartfelt "Happy Mother's Day!" cheer. We always found our own simple way of letting her know she is special to us.

Even though life has become a bit more complicated amidst the hustle and bustle of modern life today, loving her is still easy at 20, 30 or 45, whether you're provinces apart, or even oceans away. Show her your love and appreciation this Mother's Day by sending her beautiful fresh flowers, her favorite cake, or pamper her with gift certificates from her favorite spa. Surprise her with jewelry, a 29 inch Flat TV to watch her favorite soaps, or even make a donation to a charity in her name, all available right at your fingertips with just one click at www.myRegalo.com. MyRegalo.com is owned and managed by the Philippine pioneer in e-commerce, MyAyala.com, Inc.

There's no need to brave the jam-packed crowd at the malls, go through horrible traffic or wait in line. Shop right at your own home or at the office, anywhere, at anytime, day or night! There is something sure to please Mom with www.myRegalo.com's wide selection of gifts, books, flowers, chocolates and even sports equipment. The best thing is, your gift can be ordered and delivered right at your mother's doorstep in as little as 2 business days!

Payment is easy too, as www.myRegalo.com accepts all major credit cards for fast, easy and secure payment transactions. Wherever you are, celebrate Mothers day with www.myRegalo.com, because loving her does not have to be complicated.

Pampering Moms on their special day

THE SACRIFICES MOMS MAKE ARE IMMEASURABLE. Waking early in the morning to prepare breakfast for the family, readying the children for school, taking care of the needs of the hubby, cleaning the house, taking care of the laundry, cooking the meals--the list goes on and on. No wonder we often hear Moms complain about not having time for themselves or complain about how the pressures of motherhood have made them age fast. To make our Moms feel they're valued and loved, treat them to the salon, skin treatments and shopping.

Natural slimming treatment

Moms wanting to boost their self image and health can try Bioessence slimming treatment, an all natural, effective and quick method to eliminate local fat deposits, thus promoting firmer, well-toned skin.

Celluwave is a relaxing high frequency vibrating wave cellulite treatment using physiotherapy cushion. This treatment aids the body's detoxification process, speeds up the metabolism and improves blood circulation.

Celluwave treatment uses an electrically powered machine. The electric circuit that vibrates stimulates the muscle fibers. The client may feel electric current through the electric pads that is placed on the upper back area. While the client lies down on a cushion, a lymphatic drainage massage is performed on her targeting specifically the fatty areas of her body. The massage helps restore the body's natural tendencies by manipulating the muscles, and stimulating the circulatory and lymphatic systems that break down fatty tissue.

Lymphatic drainage is accomplished by gentle, rhythmic massage following the direction of lymph flow. Mild stretching movements are used on the walls of lymph collectors to redirect the flow away from blocked areas into other vessels that drain into the veins.

The Celluwave Treatment also neutralizes fat, cholestrin and acidic blood. It improves the condition of the liver by removing toxin through high frequency resonance. It also improves the normal function of the kidney, thus, improving detoxification through urination.

By combining Celluwave Treatment with a balance diet, regular exercise and a healthy lifestyle, getting a firmer skin is now easier than you have ever imagined.

A breakthrough in skin rejuvenation

Moms burdened by housework can opt to rejuvenate their skin by undergoing the Brilliance Skin Rejuvenating Complex treatment, one of the very few completely organic skin treatments that contain no industrially manufactured elements.

Effective and safe, Brilliance's seven primary components are green tea, tea tree oil, bearberry extract, olive oil, atlantica seaweed, Vitamin E, and grapessed oil.

Green tea provides a therapeutic solution to skincare by reducing stress, one of the primary causes for dull looking skin.

Tea Tree oil is known worldwide for its antibacterial properties that prevent pimples.

Bearberry extract minimizes and decreases discolorations and pigmentation. Olive oil provides moisture to skin. Atlantica seaweed has the ability to restructure the skin's surface without any visible trace of doing so. It evens out skin tone, minimizes wrinkles and reduces pore size without the need for peeling or irritating dermatological treatments. Vitamin E, which has antio-oxidizing qualities, completes the skin treatment by providing protection from free radicals that destroy the skin with nutrients that enable it to heal faster and promotes growth of healthier skin cells.

The seven steps to beauty in just one unique and organic application-Brilliance Skin Rejuvenating Complex. Manage and stop aging and skin damage at its very source with Brilliance Skin Rejuvenating Complex. So say goodbye to daycreams, nightcreams, moisturizers and depigmenting agents. The all-in-one solution in just one bottle of Brilliance.

Brilliance Skin Rejuvenating Complex is manufactures and distributed by ECCel Organics, no. 926-15-94; 928-2002, 0917-531-0711 or e-mail eccelorganics@yahoo.com.

Buy her a new ref

Do you remember the last time your Mom opened her present and made her say "Oh, How did you know? That's exactly what I wanted!" This is the kind of feeling Moms will have when they see the new Electrolux refrigerator.

Electrolux, a world-leading household name in appliance innovator, has utilized its expertise in consumer insight to develop a new line of refrigerators made especially for the Asian home. The new range of refrigerators is designed to help food retain its fresh-from-the-marketplace taste longer.

Moms can check out these innovations. Active deo fresh is a system of dual deodorizers that attract and absorb stray odors. Odor control bins help prevent strong smells from one food mixing with the taste of another.

A multi air flow cooling system ensures constant air filtration and circulation throughout the entire refrigerator and freezer, keeping moisture at optimum levels. Humidity-controlled crispers help slow down the wilting of vegetables and keep fruit ripe and crisp.

A door alarm and frost-free freezer help maintain the temperatures ideal for marketplace freshness. Adjustable shelves offer more flexibility in food storage. Adjustable bins in the door that move from side to side, and up and down, to make room for the tallest bottles. Bag clips in the door allow consumers to hang bags straight from the marketplace.

Moms' kitchens abound in rich, savory aromas and tasty, tangy flavors. Whipping up great dishes for Moms mean bringing home fresh meats and vegetables from the market. Help her bring home market freshness with the new Electrolux refrigerator.

Our mommy is the best.
She's our favorite playmate
for hide and seek and habulan.
She always makes time for stories
and games, even when she's tired.
We super-super love her.
Thanks mom...

Happy
Moother's
Day!

Mother's Day Special

ALYA Honasan and Banana

The joys of 'single mommyhood'

By Marlet D. Salazar

THE GENERAL PERCEPTION of "mothering" is about giving birth and taking care of children. But there are some women who are great mothers to their adopted child while others are wonderful foster moms.

But it takes more than patience and unparalleled understanding to be called a mom. Sometimes, parenthood knows no bounds... or even species.

For true-blue animal lovers, looking after the welfare of animals is just like being a parent to them. Taking in a pet in the house entails responsibilities and an infinite stock of tolerance level especially if one is caring for more than one pet, single-handedly.

But these creatures know how to offer their eternal gratitude. A sweet smile, a yap, a lick, or even flapping of wings coupled with the loyalty nobody can match is more than enough for all the hardships. And just like any other mother, these "single moms" for animals have their own stories to tell.

Cute yellow shadow

Banana can be considered a "therapy dog" after writer Alya Honasan lost her beloved Belgian Malinois, Muffin. But it took four long months before Alya took the yellow Labrador into her life, for which she regrets missing Banana's puppyhood.

At seven months old then, Banana found her own bundle of joy with Alya, who in return pampers her with so much love and attention. The Labrador was a gift from Alya's friends right after Muffin died.

Banana already came with some physical defects, like bad hips and a moving kneecap that required two operations.

"I can't (just) sit back and watch her suffer," Alya said. "Humans can tell you when they're feeling pain or sadness, but with animals you have to develop a connection because they can't tell you with words."

Banana is currently on the BARF diet (Bones and Raw Food) of raw chicken and a lot of raw veggies and fruit.

"It has made her so much healthier," said Alya.

Just like with Muffin, Alya always—that's always—finds time to play with Banana when she gets home from work. "Just a few minutes of play and cuddling before going to bed," she said.

A certified diver, Alya often goes scuba-diving, to which she often tags along Banana as she travels well in *bancas*.

"Luckily, Banana is a great traveler," she said. "I can strap her to the backseat of my car with her seatbelt, and we drive to Anilao or Mindoro. She loves the ocean as much as I do, and swims like a fish."

Alya is taking Banana on her first plane ride when they go to Boracay next month.

"I'm planning it already like a military maneuver," Alya said.

"My baby Banana" is how Alya refers to her favorite companion. Banana never lacks of ways to show how much she loves Alya in return. She goes crazy when her human guardian arrives from work.

MOMMYHOOD/ N2

Just like with Muffin, Alya always--that's always--finds time to play with Banana when she gets home from work. "Just a few minutes of play and cuddling before going to bed

Grace Mercado and cat

TOY KINGDOM
THE AMAZING TOY STORE!
SM MEGAMALL • Upper Ground Floor, Bldg. A
SM SOUTHMALL • Upper Ground Floor
SM CITY CEBU • Third Floor
SM CITY FAIRVIEW • Upper Ground Floor
SM CITY BACOOR • Upper Ground Floor
SM CITY ILOILO • Lower Ground Floor
SM CITY DAVAO • Second Floor
SM CITY PAMPANGA • Ground Floor, Annex 2
SM CITY LUCENA • Second Floor
SM CITY BAGUIO • Second Floor
SM CITY MARILAO • Second Floor
SM MAKATI • Third Floor, SM Annex
SM CITY BATANGAS • Ground Floor
THE PODIUM • Third Floor
V-MALL • Second Floor
SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO • Second Floor
SM MALL OF ASIA • Second Level, Main Mall
SM NORTH EDSA • Third Floor THE BLOCK

The joys of 'single mommyhood'

From page N1

"Once, I was on an extended trip for over a month, and when she first saw me, she peed from excitement — and she's completely housebroken!" she said. "My mom says she paces around and looks sad until I get home."

Like any other dog, Banana's loyalty is beyond compare. She knows when Alya is tired or sad and just sits near her.

"Even when I'm in the bathroom—her head is in the shower when I'm taking a bath!" she said. "She's my cute yellow shadow."

Alya is not just a mere "pet-owner" as she also pushes the advocacy of responsible pet guardianship.

"There's something more basic about the love they can give you that makes you take your responsibility as a steward of animals more seriously — in short, God ordered man to care for animals, not slaughter them and abuse them or get them to kill each other in fights," she said.

Loyalty beyond compare

Architect Popi Laudico finds it is most difficult when she has to leave Una when she needs to travel.

"I am lucky because I've been able to foster a relationship with people who are in love with him as much as I am," she said. "It makes the leaving a lot easier, although I still worry."

A constant companion in every sense of the word, Una accompanies Popi to her diving trips, to pottery class, job sites, concerts, and even formal dinners.

Una loves to walk through his favorite park. And when he does, his two-legged friends scream his name and rush over to cuddle him where some of them are only as tall as his chin when he's sitting down.

"I'm convinced some of (the kids') first words were actually his name," Popi said.

Like any human being, Popi gets extremely worried when she sees that Una is not feeling well. "I initially try really hard to stop myself from speed dialing my vet," she said. "That lasts about a minute... then I speed dial my vet."

Black Labrador Una is the doctor who does not need a stethoscope or a record book just to know how to make sick children feel great about themselves. His mere presence alone can put a smile even to the most hurting people.

Una is a Dr. Dog and often goes around hospitals under the Philippine Animal Welfare Society's Dr. Dog program.

Una, who incidentally maintains a platonic relationship with Banana, loves to chew on mangoes, bananas, raw *ampalaya*, ice, and sips buko juice.

Unconditional love... from mom

Taking care of one dog can sometimes get so tiring. But with 11 cats whose ages range from 13 to one-year olds is simply outstanding. Add that to a 10-year-old dog.

Businesswoman Ligaya Diy is one of those unsung hero mothers who tirelessly rescue animals and give them a loving home, and a new life.

A widow, Ligaya said a simple cuddle or purr from her cats is more than enough to ease away the weariness of a day's work.

"And from that cute little dog, Shiddie, a happy wag of the tail and a lick of my hand is the best reward," she said. Shiddie has been living with Ligaya for three years now. Like the cats, she was also rescued.

Ligaya Diy and Cats

Though she often finds it hard to give them their medicines or treat them when they are sick, she still manages to make them understand that it is for their own good.

Ligaya never doubts how much these four-legged creatures appreciate her and what she's doing for them.

"They stay close to me wherever I am in the house," she said. "They follow me when I take a walk in the garden, they nap around my feet when I watch TV or work at the computer, they beg for treats when I am having a meal, and they even watch me change the light bulb."

But like her wards, Ligaya never expects anything from them.

"I really do not care if they love me or not," she said. "What is important is that they are safe, healthy and happy." The cats and the dog have a free run of the whole house.

All the cats and the dog are spayed and neutered, adhering to the advocacy of responsible pet ownership which helps prevent more strays.

Cat angel

Cats are sometimes mistaken to be solitary creatures who can take care of themselves. But Grace Mercado wants to think otherwise.

Taking in abused and neglected feral cats is no joke. Naming them and remembering each one's story is simply remarkable.

Grace relates: "At present, I have eight cats inside my one-bedroom condominium unit. Chuchie and Egg are abused cats. Michang is an abandoned cat. Chicklette and Pinky are nursing kittens when I saw them near my place. Twinkle was dying during a typhoon. Jorge was full of grease when I got him in Parañaque."

That's not all.

"I have five stray cats staying outside my house. They are Pepang, May O, Rosebud, Paeng and Maxx."

Like a true mom, Grace knows who's naughty or nice. 'Each of them has different personalities," she said, "but I find them all very lovable, like angels'

Like a true mom, Grace knows who's naughty or nice. "Each of them has different personalities," she said, "but I find them all very lovable, like angels."

Now living alone since her own two kids grew up and moved out, Grace takes to the task of cooking and feeding the cats every four to five hours a day. When she comes home from work, she cleans up after the four-legged creatures.

Her job as a sales coordinator sometimes requires her to travel. In such cases, Grace hires cat-sitters to look after the cats.

A volunteer of Compassion and Responsibility for Animals since 2003, Grace considers stray dogs and cats as helpless angels. "And I feel very happy when I see them well after being rescued."

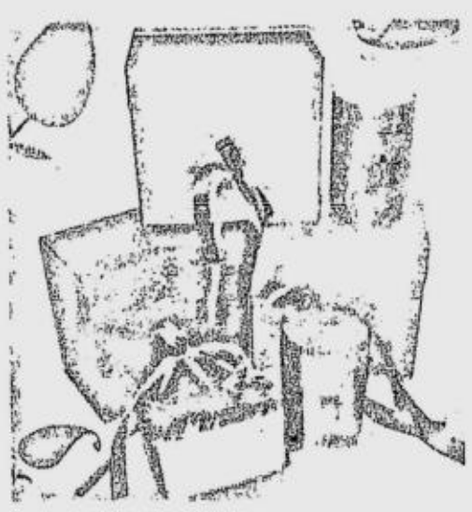
SWEET SUMMER TEMPTATIONS FOR MOM AT HÄAGEN-DAZS

Treat your mom on her special day to two sweet and sumptuous concoctions at Häagen-Dazs. Let your mother feast on a refreshing smoothie made of Summer Berries ice cream and Raspberry Sorbet blended with fresh milk. Still not enough? Don't stop mom from tasting the Sweet Temptation brought by Summer Berries ice cream coated with dark chocolate ganache and topped with strawberries. Häagen Dazs, Europe's best ice cream brand is located at EastWood, Greenhills, Greenbelt, Glorietta, Shangri-La, Rockwell and Alabang Town Center.

Mother's Day gifts at Tea and Therapy

DINE AT TEA AND THERAPY, THE newest and hippest gathering place of tea lovers and health buffs in the metropolis, this May and select from three gift boxes specially prepared for your mother on her special day.

One gift box, priced at P450, contains two 30-gram tea canister, and two tea mugs. Choose from their 12 kinds of pre-selected tea variations to go with your canisters. Another box has four 30-gram tea canisters that cost P550. The ultimate Mother's Day gift box set, priced at P800, contains one tea brick perfect for a tea party and one 30-gram tea canister.



Add a personal touch to your gift by selecting from Tea and Therapy's wide array of tea, from calming French Lavender, which acts as an antiseptic and analgesic to ease pains and prevent infections, to healing Cool It, which is known for its cooling and healing properties.

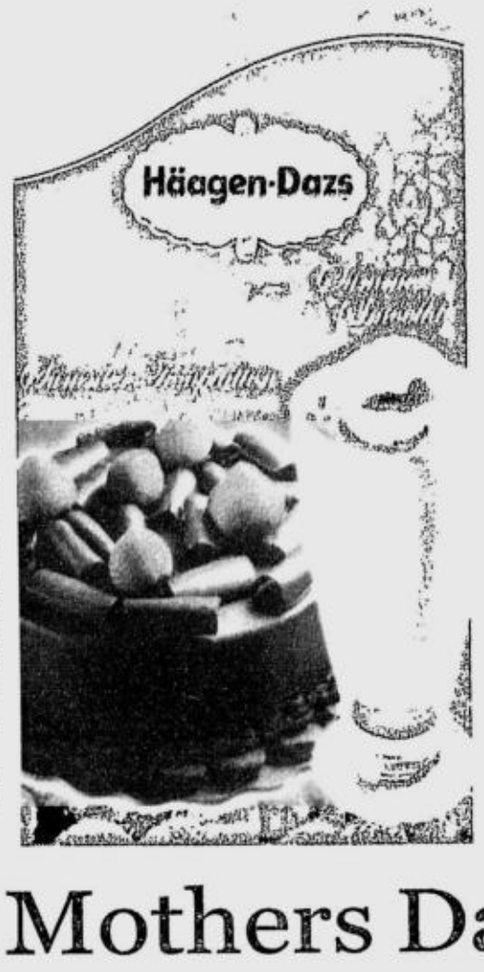
Tea and Therapy Salon, is located at the Ground Floor of the Serendra Global Bonifacio. For inquiries about the Mother's Day special and reservations, please call 856-1111 or 856-0111.

Show Mommy you care with Titania gift packs

IN THIS MONTH OF FESTIVITIES AND summer getaways, let's take a quick pause and commemorate the day intended for the first woman we have ever loved-our mothers.

Make Mother's Day really her day. Let her lie down, relax and forget about mommy work even for just a while. Give her something she will definitely love like the Titania Mother's Day Gift Packs. They come in two variants. The Smooth Heel Cream with bath gloves and rose paper soap is perfect for soothing Mom's tired feet. And the Titania Softening Lotion with towel and flower paper soap for a luxurious feet treat Mom will never forget. They also come in such dainty packaging you won't have to worry about gift wrapping them!

The Titania Mother's Day gift packs are available at Landmark and all Watsons outlets.



Love her 'Beary' much at Festival Supermall

ITS MOM'S VERY SPECIAL DAY, which means she deserves an equally special pleasure.

Treat her to a shopping spree, a hearty lunch, a good massage and let her enjoy special treats to her heart's desire.

As a fitting tribute, Festival Supermall will be giving away cute little bears to all moms celebrating their day in the mall. Kids 4 to 10 years of age looking for a way to tell mom how special she is may join the Pop-up Card for mom workshop. This makes you have your own way of telling mom how much you love her.

Harpist Noelle Cassandra culminates the day for moms as she serenades them at the Chef's Avenue come 7 p.m.

Festival Supermall is located in Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City. For more info and leasing inquiries, call customer service at 850-3514 and 850-3515 or log on to www.festivalsupermall.com.ph.

Tutuban's Mothers Day treats

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN OF THE YEAR where we pay tribute to one of the most important persons in our lives-our mother. Taking notice of this social phenomenon among women and in recognition of mothers' contribution to their children's and their families' development, Tutuban Mall, the country's biggest bargain center with the most comprehensive line of products at bargain prices, has activities geared for our mothers' appreciation and delight.

So what can we give her on her special day? She deserves no less than a red-carpet treatment. Why not gift her with an exciting shopping binge? Traditionally, shopping is much dearer to women, who could spend hours and hours of walking endlessly, trying to snag that much-desired product, and at a bargain price, of course.

In gratitude for her contributions and sacrifices to the family, Tutuban Mall brings to the fore exciting Mother's Day gift ideas that she would truly appreciate.

On Mother's Day, pregnant Lucky Mommy shoppers at Tutuban Mall will have the chance to win a relaxing spa, a hair trim, a foot and back massage, plus a collection of exciting apparels, courtesy of Jesi Mendez, Soyeux Cheveux Salon, Index Salon and Jewels Collection.

For most families, the celebration of Mother's Day can be an exciting and most anticipated event, and Tutuban Mall looks forward to seeing mothers and their families celebrate this milestone moment. After all, we all owe her our lives, don't we?

Teriyaki Boy's special gift

"OKAASAN! DOMO ARIGATO!" or "Thank you, Mom!" is a sentiment Teriyaki Boy understands is universal in any language.

So today, Teriyaki Boy honors all mothers on their special day with an exceptional gift that's near and dear to moms everywhere. For a minimum purchase of P600, all moms will be presented with a special gift to remind them of their special day.

In addition, they and their friends and family get to enjoy Teriyaki Boy's all-time favorites like the best Chicken Teriyaki in town, along with their choice of 80 other delectable Japanese dishes suited to Filipino tastes and preferences.

Teriyaki Boy also adds around four new items on its menu every quarter and launches promotional events and activities that enhance the Teriyaki Boy dining experience beyond its well-loved catchphrase, "Tabemashou!" or "Let's eat!"

The special Mother's Day gifts will be available while supplies last in all of Teriyaki Boy's 29 conveniently located stores.

Teriyaki Boy is a member of the pancake House Group of Companies.

HUGGIES®

Makes every moment you spend together a happy one.

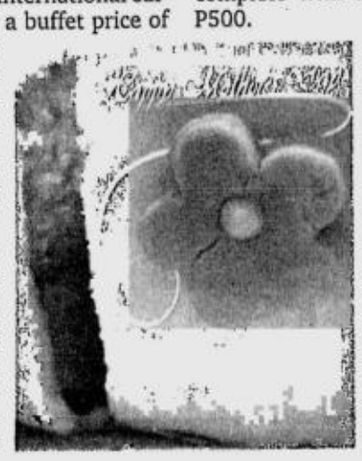
Happy Mother's Day

Have your picture taken for free and receive special gifts when you visit the Huggies* booth at SM Fairview, SM Sta. Mesa, SM North Edsa, SM Megamall, SM Bacoor, Rustan's Shangri-la and Gateway.

'Momma Momma I Luva Luva'

AS THE WHOLE WORLD UNITES IN THE global celebration of Mother's Day, Manila Pavilion Hotel whips up a whole day of bonding activities fit for the queen of our hearts.

At Seasons, a lush feast of international cuisine awaits all mothers. For a buffet price of P900, you can share a rare dining moment with your mom. Impress her with the diversity of the fare and the adroitness of the buffet station chefs as they prepare a delectable dish right before her eyes.



And to make the occasion even more special, Seasons will be honoring dining privileges under the Pavilion Gold and the long extended 2+1 promo only this Mother's Day.

For a longer bonding moment with your Mom, take her for a soothing and relaxing massage at the Embassy Spa. Recovering lost times never felt this good, as you and your Mom get a foot spa and a whole body tension release massage complete with shower and sauna for only P500.

End the day on a sweet note. Give her the pleasurable jolt of a strawberry rush at the Patisserie. A Strawberry Cake for only P785+++, Strawberry Shake for only P195+++ and Strawberry in Balsamic for only P250+++, because the sweetest of moms deserve all the strawberry delights that she could ask for.

So call Manila Pavilion Hotel at 526-1212 for that memorable Mother's Day celebration.

A 'motel' mothers can recommend to their family

By Raquel P. Gomez

IT TOOK LITERALLY A CHANGE OF heart and a great leap of faith for the owner of a business establishment, which Filipinos tended to associate with hanky panky, to transform the establishment into a respected, family- and values-oriented three-star hotel.

The Mabuhay Manor, dubbed as the first Balikbayan Hotel in the country, used to be Anito in Pasay City. It's located in the area where motels abound and it used to be among the chain of motels now currently being phased out and transformed into family-friendly hotels.

This positive wind of change was the result of hotel owner Wyden King's faith renewal several years ago. Now a born-again Christian, King is diversifying out of the motel business, steadily transforming his motels into real hotels and investing in his Legend resorts and hotels. Legend Villas is the flagship of the Legend properties that include the Legend Hotel Palawan, The Mabuhay Manor in Pasay, Kabayan Hotel in Cubao and Pasay.

The process of change for the motel to become wholesome and family-oriented not only involves a change of name and orientation but a complete overhaul of the facilities and amenities. The putting up of spacious and festive lobby and reception desk, lounge area, business area, a coffee shop and restaurant (Sutukil), and a swimming pool surrounded by greenery are among the major changes. The bright-colored rooms have parquet flooring, double twin size beds and are spacious. Some have kitchens and living room areas to accommodate every family member. Tours, such as visits to popular shopping areas or tourist spots and beach hideaways are also offered by the hotel.

"The biggest rooms can accommodate six to eight people," according to Rowena Eliscupides, hotel manager. She adds that the intention to make the rooms bigger is to accommodate the needs of overseas Filipinos who love to have instant reunions with their families here once they arrive in the country. As an added service, the hotel provides free ride for the *balikbayan's* family to and from the airport.

"This hotel is really intended for *balikbayans* and their families. You know how Filipinos are. A homecoming for a Filipino means going to the airport in droves to meet a family member or a loved one and then there's reunion and celebration," says Eliscupides.

The hotel also extensively used touches of Filipino culture to make it appealing to *balikbayans* who still like to be reminded of their true Filipino identity. Filipino folk songs mainly comprise the piped in music in the lobby. Festive flags hang on ceilings to remind of fiestas, local board games such as *sungka* and *dama* are placed in the lounge area and the restaurant offers authentic Filipino cuisine.

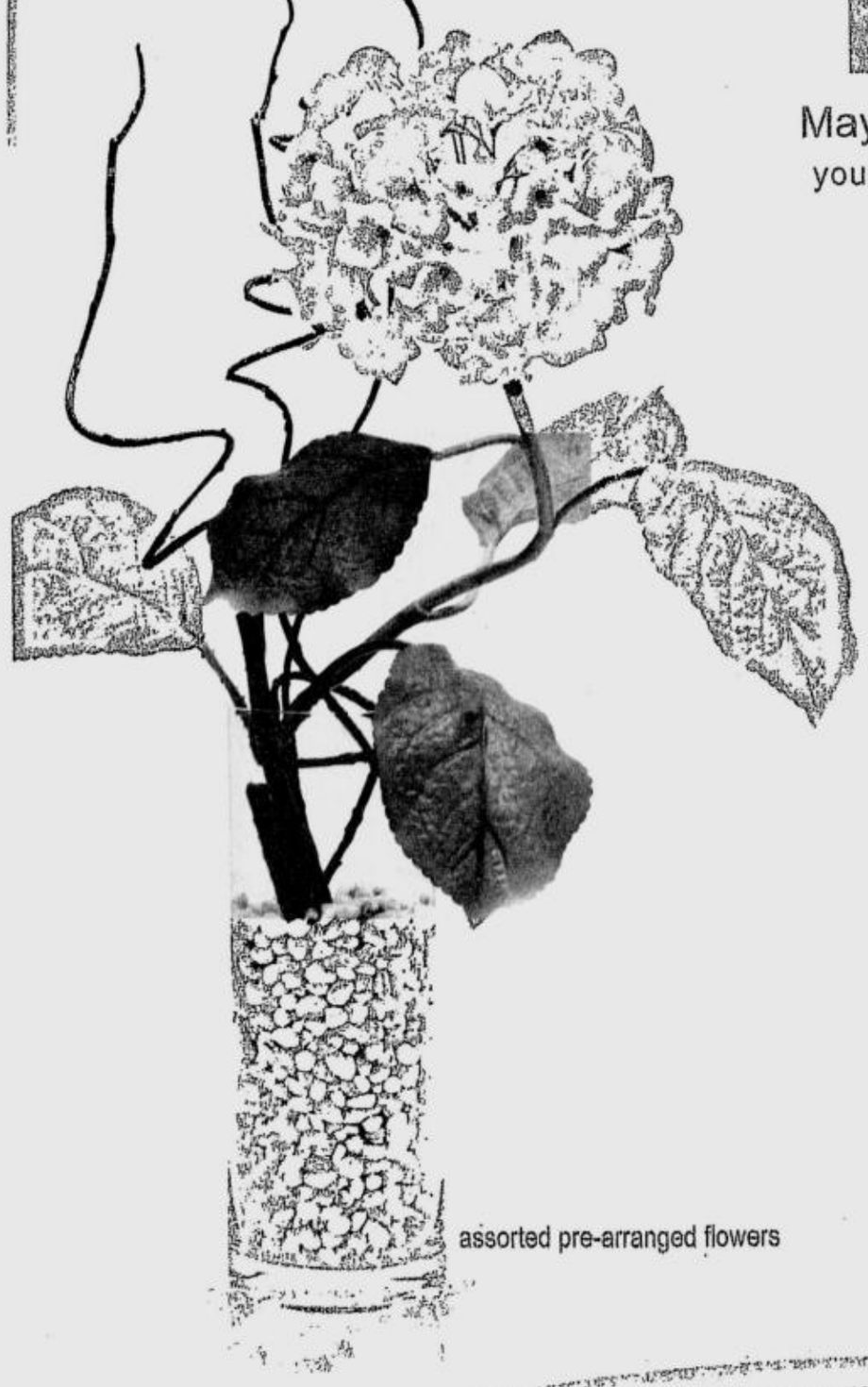
Well lit, friendly and very festive, the Mabuhay Manor shines among the several hotels and motels in the area. Truly, this place now popular among *balikbayans* has undergone retribution and has become the place even Moms can recommend.

> A homecoming for a Filipino means going to the airport in droves to meet a family member or a loved one and then there's reunion and celebration

HOME WORLD
Your one-stop home shop

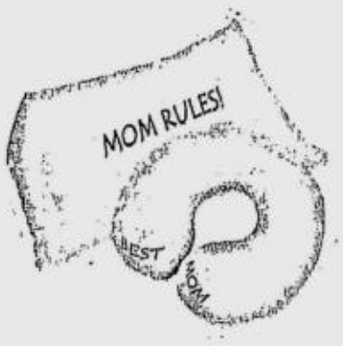
thanks mom

May 13 is Mother's Day
your choice of gifts for mom

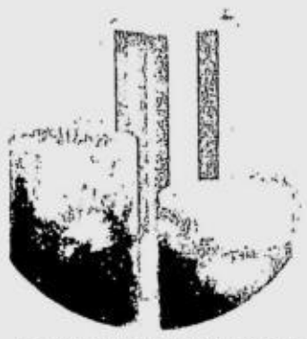


assorted pre-arranged flowers

mom mugs



fun pillows



assorted scented candles

WIN for your mom!
classy diamond ring
(1 winner per branch)

Every P500 single or accumulated purchase gives you the chance to win from May 1 - 13

See mechanics poster for details
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1760, Series of 2007.

Double your chances of winning upon presentation of SM Advantage Card

F. U. C. JEWELRY

We've got it all for you!
SM DEPARTMENT STORE

MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • MANDURRIAO • CEBU • DAVAO
CAGAYAN DE ORO • BICUTAN • LUCENA • BAGUIO • MARILAO • DASMARIÑAS • BATANGAS • DELGADO • SAN LAZARO • SUCAT • STA. ROSA • CLARK • MALL OF ASIA • LIPA • BACOLOD

Celebrate Mom at Cravings

MOTHERS PERHAPS HAVE the most stressful job-on call 24/7, 365 days a year, with no vacation leave, and no extra pay in spite of multi-tasking and rendering services overtime! The only compensation she gets, however, is also priceless: Love and devotion from her children who appreciate her every deed, from the smallest effort to the biggest sacrifice she does every single day.

This month, honor Mom's selfless act with the "sweetest" reward: Blissful desserts and dishes that "Celebrate Mom" at Cravings.

At Cravings, mothers will get a delightful treat on that momentous day with new desserts and dishes specially prepared from May 1 to May 20. The best gift for every mother on this special day is lunch or dinner with the whole family, a time to celebrate Mom and her love for her children. This year, make the event more memorable at your favorite Cravings branch.

Treat Mom to two specially prepared entrees created to satisfy her cravings. Moms can go "healthy" and choose the Wasabi Peas Crusted Salmon-baked Norwegian salmon crusted with ground wasabi flavored green peas and seasoned with sweet potato mash and seasoned Asian vegetables. Or she can opt for the Pan Seared Chicken with Lemon Grass and Coconut Ginger Sauce-cilantro-crusted chicken served with Asian flavored sauce. It comes with perfectly sautéed mixed vegetables, sweet potato mash, and sesame-crusted wheat bread twist. Both entrees come with an eat-all-you-can salad which Cravings is famous for.

For a minimum order of P1,000 inclusive of any Mother's Day meal (single receipt), moms will be given either a Slimmers World voucher worth P1,500 or Planet Sports vouchers. While on Mother's Day, May 13, special vouchers from Slimmers World Face & Skin Clinic worth P2,500 will be given to customers with a minimum order of P1,500 inclusive of any Mother's Day meal (single receipt).

A meal at Cravings is not complete without desserts. For the month of Moms, there is Cookies n' Cream-luscious layers of a spongy, moist cake filled with a heaping of cream and cookies. Each bite will be relished by Mom, reminding her how special she is. Another is Ube Mousse - a scrumptious, soft and creamy ube cake topped with appetizing wafer sticks.

Cravings has branches in Katipunan, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Tomas Morato, Festival Super Mall, Fraser Place, Makati City; and West Avenue. For more information, log on to www.cravingsgroup.com.

Eat treats around the world

OYSTERS Marinara & Pesto Keso oysters

BASKET of chickies

COCHINILLO Paloma

ADMIT IT. You adore your mother's cooking and your life is not complete without tasting your favorite dish especially cooked by mom. But it's Mother's Day, and although you cannot cook, there are a wide range of choices where to bring mom on this special day. It's your treat, this time.

Go Spanish

At the heart of Ortigas is one bistro which serves the most delectable Spanish dishes in town. Paloma exudes a modern ambience that can make every dinner romantic for couples and intimate with friends with its orange interiors and warm glow.

Menus are all traditionally Spanish but injected with a new vibe.

Graze on Ostrich Salpicao, Cheese Triangles and Braised Quails deep-fried 'til crispy.

WORLD/02

Charlene Gonzales finds happiness in motherhood

Charlene Gonzales has played many roles in the past, but it's motherhood that gives her the most meaningful sense of fulfillment. Atasha and Andres, her twins with husband Aga Muhlach, are at that precocious age so Charlene tackles her real-life motherhood role with much more gusto than any of her projects. A woman confident in her abilities to juggle home and career life, Charlene's beauty, brains, and big heart is nothing short of inspiring.

Charlene recently celebrated her birthday together with some 50 orphans at The Holy Trinity Home for Children where she wholeheartedly played the role of a mom-for-a day. This multi-faceted mom opted to give back to these kids and spread joy through a festive Jollibee party, complete with the Jollibee mascot, colorful party favors, fun games, and of course, their lang-hap-sarap favorites. For those 50 kids, Charlene's gift of love is a happy memory they will always remember.

Her good nature brings happiness to others through her professional life, too. Her TV program At Home Ka Dito also features segments that highlight giving back to the community. Tune in to the show to witness home makeovers for famous personalities, who will then return the favor by helping someone else through a tough time. Today's special episode on Mother's Day will feature how Charlene and Jollibee brought big smiles to the children at the Holy Trinity Home.

Being married to Philippine entertainment's multi-awarded actor has given her another opportunity to make a difference. Their family's partnership with Jollibee allows Mom Charlene, Dad Aga, Andres and Atasha to espouse Filipino family values in the leading fast-food brand's many campaigns.

Talented and with a beautiful spirit, Charlene is one of the most-admired women in local show business. Her commitment to Atasha and Andres, never wanes despite juggling responsibilities as mom, wife, and showbiz figure. Charlene manages to inhabit all these roles with an admirable amount of optimism and enthusiasm, making her a local icon worth emulating.

Jollibee

Dahil lagi mong inuuna
ang kami ay mapasaya,
sa puso namin,
ikaw ang bida.

Happy Mother's Day po!

Sa araw ng mga ina,
Bida ang saya! Jollibee

Eat treats around the world

From page O1

Refresh in the Orange Pine Nut Salad. Go all out on a tasting menu that's as varied as you want it to be. Share a *paleta* of *manchego*, Jamón Serrano, and Spanish sausages.

Paloma takes pride in its paellas, offered solo or for sharing. Cooked the way it's done in Spain, shorter grain rice is cooked just 'til *al punto*, so it has bite, making for a more toothsome, satisfying dish. House favorites include the Paella Flamenco, which is topped with a fried egg, a take on Huevos Flamencos; and the Paella Paloma, an indulgence of lobster tails, Jamón Serrano, squid and sausage.

Visit Paloma Modern Spanish Bistro at the 6/F of Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Ortigas Center. For inquiries, call 910-4096.

A taste of Singapore

Let your mother have the freshest seafood and the best of Vietnamese, Thai, and its new authentic Singaporean dishes.

Crustasia at Rockwell Power Plant Mall in Makati and The Podium in Ortigas Center offer new dishes that will surely test your palette.

Chefs at Crustasia only offer authentic Asian cusine with Peranakan chicken curry, Thai fish pancake, beef *rendang*, buttered oatmeal prawns, *char tow kueh*, claypot chicken rice, cold shanghainese tofu, fish head curry soup, *hae mee*, Hokkien fried noodle, thai fish pancake, pomelo salad, Thai stuffed eggplant, thai vegetable, mixed sambal seafood and more.

Most of Red Crab's crab selections are Singaporean Chili Crab, Singaporean black bean crab, Crab Maritess, Singaporean Pepper Crab, and Szechuan.

American Grill with crabs on the side

Claw Daddy Family Seafood Feasts Crab and Lobster Boil a seafood feast of crabs, pacific lobsters, fresh water prawns, shrimps, New Zealand Mussels, clams, sausages, corn on a cob, baby potatoes, all simmered in a flavorful seafood broth, and served with lemon butter and Cajun Seafood Basket fish, shrimps and *calamari* coated in Cajun spices, served with lemon-garlic butter, cocktail sauce, house fries. Salads line up is mostly California inspired with items such as Santa Fe, Chop Salad, and Seared Tuna and Calamari Salad.

ClawDaddy Crab House and American Grill is located at The Ledge, 6/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Ortigas. For inquiries, call 636-5679.

Island getaway

Blackbeard's Seafood Island makes sure you get only the freshest seafood on your platter. Have a feast with oysters *marinara* and *pesto keso* oysters.

Menu categories include Pica-Pica, Soups and Salads, Hot Plates (sizzling/assorted sisig), Kinilaw, Seafoods in Fisherman's Sour Broth, Crabs a la Carte, Crabs by the Basket, Fresh Visayan Blue Crabs/California Crabs, Oysters and Clams, Barbeque and Deep Fried Trippings, Seafood Rice, Vegetables & Desserts.

And for family outing, check out their Seafood Island's all time favorite Boodle Feast. Each set comes complete with rice and grilled seafood selection which are placed in a 3 sq ft. wooden tray lined with banana leaves.

Seafood Island has a branch Fiesta Market! Market! Fort Bonifacio Global City and also at Shopwise Arcade, Araneta Center, Cubao. For reservations call 913-5701, 886-7692.

And now, it's heaven

Heaven 'n Eggs is teeming with heavenly menu for everyone—health-conscious or not.

For groups, the Heaven 'n Eggs Dinner Baskets already include Steak Fingers 'n Calamari Rings, Heaven's Fish 'N Chips Basket. You can also try the Basket of Chickies, Brazil vs. Germany, Chicken Teriyaki and Tempura Basket.

For omelet lovers enjoy creative egg-wrappings. There's Elvis Ham and Cheese Rock, Sinatra's Steak Omelet, the yummy Viva Las Vegas (with lots of fillings! Shrimp, fish, squid, sausages), and My Sicily (Spanish sardines and pesto), Crabmeat & Asparagus Omelet and Smoked Fish and Spinach Omelet.

Grilled Salmon Lite, and Grilled Tilapia Fillet Lite are served with brown rice, Grilled Vegetables and Pesto Omelet Blanca, Garden Salad with Shrimps and Mandarin Oranges.

Visit Heaven 'N Eggs branches located at CKB Building, Tomas Morato, Quezon City with telephone number 376-2674, at the Ground Floor, Glorietta 4 (818-2792), at the Fuente Circle, Eastwood City (912-1172), and Market! Market! (889-3791).

KRUNCH INTO THE WEB
Kids of all shapes and sizes, along with their Moms, had fun meeting and getting photographed with Spiderman in the recent Nestlé Koko Krunch event in the Block, SM City North Edsa. 'Krunch into The Web' allowed kids and Moms to experience Spiderman's adventures in downtown Manhattan such as zipping through Statue of Liberty at Sand Man's Dune, shooting web balls while bouncing on a trampoline in the Green Goblin's vault, or doing their own Spiderman pause at Spidey's Wall Crawl photo op area. Those who want to test their Spider sense tried out the challenging obstacle course Koko's Power Hurdle. Kids joined fun games and won Nestlé Koko Krunch giveaways in the program hosted by Sam Concepcion and Dj Francesca Tobias.

In appreciation of Mom

MOTHER'S DAY IS A TIME TO celebrate all the love and care your Mom has always bestowed on you unconditionally. At Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila, create the perfect day to bond with your Mom by treating her to a bountiful Mother's Day treat in any of its innovative restaurants.

At Li Li, chef Choi is whipping up a special brunch that will feature his secret recipe for Hot & Sour Soup, Wok-Fried Chicken Fillet, and Cuttlefish with Asparagus and Shimeji Mushrooms in XO Sauce, as well as the special Cold Cuts Combination Platter, all with unlimited dim sum, iced tea, local beer and soft drinks...a feast to be enjoyed for the incredible price of just P1,288++. For an even sweeter celebration, indulge in the exquisite dessert buffet offerings when you book this special brunch menu. At dinner time, the grandiosity increases with the chef's variety of set menus, including the not-to-be-missed eight-course dinner for only P1,388++.

If Mom craves grilled prime meats and seafood, indulge her at The Fireplace. Available exclusively on her special day, a scrumptious five-course family-style set menu will be available, along with incredible prizes, for P1,488++ for lunch, including a glass of wine or soft drink, or P1,688++ for dinner, including a bottle of wine for groups of four or more.

If it's an endless, mouthwatering treat that takes Mom's fancy, then Market Café, the hotel's interactive dining gallery of show kitchens and food stations, will be the most enticing of them all. Chef Hubertus will be adding even more finger-licking delights to the already extensive lunch and dinner buffets. This special buffet is created exclusively for Mom and is available for only P1,388++.

At Pastry Boutique, wear your heart out on your sleeve and show Mom your true feelings with chef Victor's personalized chocolate hearts, guaranteed to make her melt with joy.

To make Mother's Day even more special, all moms dining with four or more family members or friends in any of its outlets will take home special Bvlgari Body Set (valued at P880), with the hotel's compliments.

There's more. As an early bird treat, make your reservations now and Mom will receive an exclusive 10-percent discount card, absolutely free, for use throughout the year in any of the dining outlets.

For more inquiries and reservations, call 245-1234.

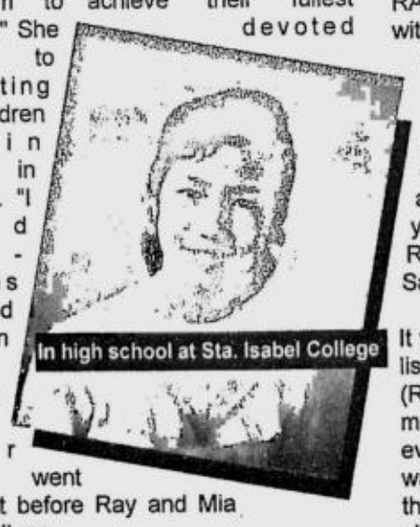
Beyond Risks and Against All Odds

Mother Nita Gapuz, strong-willed and determined, sent all her four children to good schools by selling vegetables,bread, and candies in the market and in public school canteens. Her story of raising her smart and intelligent kids through hardwork and honest means despite financial crisis is a story worth sharing.

by John Ralph Rios

A good mind for business, a strong will and determination to succeed were the best assets Nita possessed when she started out her married life in 1964. She helped her husband Ricarte Sr. who was a baker run their bakery in Rosario La Union. "Business was good for a time because we were the nutriban supplier in our area during that time." At a young age of 21, she was already determined to provide a good life for her family even if she did not finish her BS Food and Nutrition course in University of Sto. Tomas.

Her children, Elena, Beth, Ray and Mia were her inspiration. "I knew back then that all my children are very smart. They are my treasure. I did everything within my means for them to achieve their fullest potential." She devoted herself to supporting her children attain success in their life. "I sold vegetables and meals in a canteen when our bakery went bankrupt before Ray and Mia finish college.


In high school at Sta. Isabel College

At times when she had a shortage of cash to pay for the tuition, she would borrow from the neighborhood bumbay."I prefer borrowing from them at that time because I did not have to worry about being grateful or be fearful of being rebuked if I borrowed from others. I treated borrowing money as a simple business transaction with no utang na loob involved." Mother Nita Gapuz had a strong sense of self even in the face of hardships and sacrifices. She knew the money she earned is put to good use as a means for her children to achieve their goals. "But when Mia needed to pay for application for an entrance exam in UP manila I had to borrow P 500 from a *labandera* so she can take it. Luckily, she passed."

Elena, an engineer is presently the vice president of RAGRC. Beth is now the vice president for international network of RAGRC and is based in the United States. Ray has climbed to the top as a successful nurse review lecturer and award winning entrepreneur. Mia, now the president of RAGRC is also a licensed dentist. They graduated with honors, and became board topnothers in their respective licensure examinations.

Mother's husband passed away in 1996 just a year before all her children graduated from college. Fortunately, her first three children were already helping out with the schooling of the youngest Mia, who was studying in UP Manila. Ray already graduated from the University of Santo Tomas and was supportive to his sisters.

It was the mother and son tandem that first established the RA GAPUZ REVIEW CENTER (RAGRC) in Dagupan City in 1994. "When Ray told me he wanted to start a Review Center, I said yes even if we dont have the money for a capital. I wanted to support my son because I know he has the calling. He is smart and inteligent. Even as a child, he loves teaching." *Mother* pawned her stall for P30 thousand which was their start up capital. "At first we had to use chairs that were factory rejects, a makeshift library and old furnitures that we placed in the classroom. At that time we had only 3 nurses as reviewees, only 3 believed we are a review center", she smiles. "With God's grace all three passed. Hardwork,patience and dedication, paid off. The number of reviewees increased to 45 after that." The rest is history.

It was then the start of another long journey for Mother Nita that started to bear fruit seven to eight years after. "All of those reviewees call me "*Mother*". Many of them approach me, *Mother wala akong pera pang-review. Tinatanggap ko sila.* I tell them *sige basta ipasa mo yung board exam ha. Marami silang ganun.*"Mother's sole consolation was for these "*anaks*" to pass.

Mother, with children Mia, Ray, Elena and Beth (inset)

Today, *Mother* is 64 but not looking a day over 46, with thirteen years of experience in the endeavor of helping many nurses review for their board exams. In 2000 she turned over the management of RAGRC to all her children. She only has that gratitude for all the blessings that her family has received. She wishes good health for her self and her family which she believes is vital to enjoy the fruits of their hardwork.

The bakery, and eatery businesses are but part of a distant and fond memories now. The review center which is started with three reviewees cater to thousands of nurses now, with expansion to other parts of Asia on the way.

Of course, once in a while there were few obstacles that come their way. But it's nothing she and her children can't handle. "We draw strength from each other and my children know that our cohesiveness as family is key to the success that we have right now."

Mother is happy she still has the strength and vibrance to be a mother to her children and to all the students who seek her help.

"I am continuously inspired knowing that my children were able to help so many. My children have grown stronger and better persons after the most trying times in our lives. God has been too good He never left our side."

There is a wonder mom behind her wonderful children. For the Gapuz siblings, they had their mom, Nita, who has always stood up for them - beyond risks and against all odds.

(Mother Nita Gapuz was granted the "Huwarang Ina Award" in 2005.)

ADVT

Super Moms Super Gifts

Automatic Centre
treats mothers to the latest technology showcase and more!

In celebration of Mother's Day, Automatic Centre presents the "Super Moms, Super Gifts" raffle promo. Get a chance to win Motorola cellphones, WOW Magic Sing videoke microphones or MP3 players with a minimum purchase of P2,000 from now until May 31, 2007.

Plus, get mom a FREE summer bag by purchasing gadgets and kitchen appliances worth P2000. Just present the cut-out coupon from this advertisement to claim it.

It's the MOTO-Craze at Festival Supermall

Now thru May 14, 2007, show mom the coolest Motorola cellphones in Automatic Centre's Moto-Craze Exhibit at the Festival Supermall. Featuring the spacious 60-sqm space, the exhibit showcases the latest Motorola phones like the hot V3xx and V6 maxx models. Get these Motorola phones at 0% interest rate for up to 12 months thru major credit cards! A FREE carry-all bag is up for grab with every purchase plus an instant Pick-a-Prize of valuable give-aways and a chance to win cool gadgets in the "Super Moms, Super Gifts " raffle promo.

Introducing the V3xx and V6 maxx: HI-SPEED CONNECTIVITY

Make a next generation connection with the latest Mobile offerings from the Maven of Cellular Chic – MOTOROLA. Give a razor sharp welcome to the MOTORAZR V3xx and the MOTORAZR V6 maxx! Powered by 3.5G HSDPA Technology, these new RAZRS set an even higher standard for multimedia communication by allowing broadband Internet surfing right on your mobile phone.

Imagine downloading music, images and video almost instantly. Get LIVE newscasts or view STREAMING VIDEO with hardly any lag time. Make crisp VIDEO CALLS to put a face to your connection. And with the V6 maxx, you can use exterior touch-sensitive media-player controls for on-the-go music enjoyment. It's a broadband entertainment center in the palm of your own hand.

More Gadgets and Treats for Moms

Take mom to Automatic Centre's Gadgets Craze Exhibit at Robinsons Metro East from May 16 to June 02, 2007. Various brands of latest cellphones, laptops, MP3 or MP4 players, digital cameras, portable DVD players, Wow Magic Sing videoke microphones and other gadgets and accessories will be showcased during the exhibit.

0% interest thru major credit cards

COOL FREEBIES! (on selected purchases)

Automatic CENTRE

NOKIA Connecting People

N70 music

0% interest 12 mos.

Carry-all bag

Sony Ericsson

K800i

- 3G
- 3.2 megapixel with autofocus & 16X digital zoom
- Cybershot phone

0% interest 12 mos.

Carry-all bag

MOTOROLA

KRZR K1

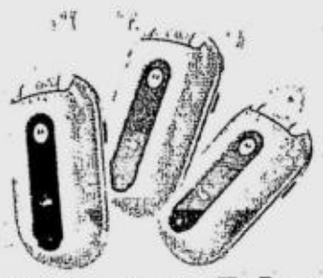
- 2 mega-pixel camera w/ 8x digital zoom
- Expandable up to 2GB micro SD
- MP3 Playback and video capture

0% interest 12 mos.

Carry-all bag

Super Moms Super Gifts

Get a chance to WIN one of these summer surPRIZES!



3 Motorola Cellphones

O2

EXEC

- Intel X scale PXA 272 520MHz
- 2.7"TFT LCD Display with touch panel
- Coulour 2 megapixels CMOS camera

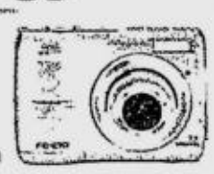
0% interest 12 mos.

Carry-all bag

OLYMPUS

FE-210

- 7.1 Megapixels
- 3x Optical zoom
- 6.4cm LCD



0% interest

with Epson Picturemate100 GP powerbank GP battery

P 888.33/mo. 18 mos.

Kodak

C763

- 2.5-inch LCD
- 5x zoom
- USB 2.0 interface

0% interest

w/ 512MB and Camera case

P 1,082.92/mo. 12 mos.

3 WOW Magic Sing Videoke Mic

COBY.

TF-DVD7333 Portable DVD Player

- 7"rotating screen

0% interest

P 1,998.33/mo. 3 mos.

WOW!

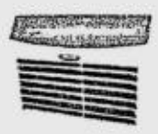
ED-9000 WOW Magic Sing Silver Fiesta Videoke Mic

0% interest

P 497.22/mo. 18 mos.

Dowell

ARC 90 Air Cooler with Ionizer & Remote Control



P 1,166/mo. 3 mos.

6 Mp3 players

Apacer • Vytron • Pensonic

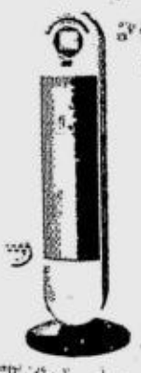
HANABISHI

16SF Stand Fan 16' Classic Air

SRP P 878

Asahi HOME APPLIANCES

TF-004 Tower Fan 16" w/ ionizer and remote control



SRP P 2,598

CAMEL

RIF-16 Industrial Fan

SRP P 898

For P2,000 minimum purchase of any items.

Also available at **SOGO Home & Office Center** branches.

Promo runs from **May 4 - 31, 2007**

Per DTI NCR Permit No. 1770, Series of 2007

HANABISHI

Desk Fan 16" The Space 16T

SRP P 698

Asahi HOME APPLIANCES

SR-6056R Stand Fan 16" w/ remote

SRP P 2,898

CAMEL

SK-40S Rice Cooker 5 cups

SRP P 528

PLUS!! Automatic CENTRE Home & Office

Super Moms Super Gifts

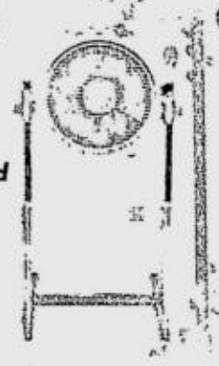
Cut this coupon and get a FREE Summer Bag with P2,000 minimum purchase of gadgets or kitchen appliance.

Promo runs from May 4 - 31, 2007

Per DTI NCR Permit No. 1770, Series of 2007

NIKON HOME APPLIANCES

XB30-35 Box Fan 12" w/ Metal stand and timer



SRP P 1,098

NIKON HOME APPLIANCES

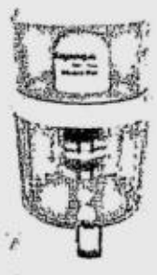
NBG-M3 Blender

SRP P 788

Buy 2 at P1,450

Sapoe

SMP-14G Mineral Pot Purifier



SRP P 1,058

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1233, Series of 2007

Automatic CENTRE

SOGO

GLORIETTA 1 MARKET! MARKET! FESTIVAL SUPERMALL SM SOUTHMALL ORTIGAS HOME DEPOT TUTUBAN CENTER MALL GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER ROBINSONS GALLERIA GATEWAY MALL WALUI STATION ARCADE SM NORTH EDSA ROBINSONS TRUCK PIONEER GLORIETTA 2 CENTRAL MALL GREENHILLS ALABANG TOWN CENTER

GLORIETTA 4 CENTRAL PAVILION FAIRVIEW TOWN CENTER TUTUBAN PLACE CENTERMALL ROBINSONS METRO EAST ALI MALL

Gift of wellness for moms

LET MOM RECHARGE ON HER special day and find out what the state of her health is at Living Life Well.

Living Life Well, an integrative medical and therapy center featuring acupuncture, acupressure and vital wellness programs, is at the MegaClinic at the fifth level of SM Megamall.

Living Life Well's presence at SM MegaClinic is the only integrative medical and therapy center that is cradled within a full-line Western medical care environment which is the larger De Los Santos-STI MegaClinic.

Lyn Castro, founder of Living Life Well, states the center is dedicated to provide optimum health care through the combination of western medicine and alternative medical healing, which is exactly what moms need.

According to Dr. Mark Alejandro S. Llenado, Living Life Well integrative medicine and preventive cardiovascular therapy consultant, what is uniquely offered at Living Life Well is a balanced and rational blend of the two potent schools of healing: Western medicine and Oriental medicine.

He says Chinese medicine, a complete medical system, has been practiced in China for over 3,000 years. Treatment combines the use of medicinal herbs, acupuncture, massage, and exercises such as Qi Gong to treat illness.

"Proper diagnosis and treatment include understanding the environmental, social and emotional factors that cause disharmony and comfort. Our medical providers will develop a wellness program specific to individual needs," declares Castro, whose first Living Life Well center in Glorietta 3, Makati also offers this total healing paradigm.

At Living Life Well, acupuncture is administered by Dr. Maria Teresa M. Umipig, the center's medical director and a graduate of UP College of Medicine who studied Oriental medicine in The Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine in China.

Living Life Well is an authorized dispenser of Nong's Concentrated Chinese Medicine Granules, using a fully computerized set-up that accurately identifies and measures ingredients of prescribed medicine. The same set up packs the prescriptions in hygienic sachets. Nong's Concentrated Chinese Medicine Granules is a designated scientific research item approved by the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, a state bureau under the Ministry of Public Health in China.

Living Life Well is located at the Mega Clinic, 5th Floor, SM Megamall Building A, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. For details, call 637-9661 local 124.

Her favorite activity at Rockwell's Urban Bazaar

THIS MOTHER'S DAY, TREAT your Mom to her favorite activity, shopping! Celebrate Mother's Day at the Rockwell's Urban Bazaar, a shopping extravaganza that features a wide variety of products from established brands, young entrepreneurs and new players in the retail panorama.

For those who want to shop for stylish yet sensible finds or for those who simply want to take a break from the usual "retail scene", then head on to the Rockwell Tent today.

Find a great healthy mix of unique and stylish accessories, clothing, shoes, bags, beauty, knick-knacks, food, and home items.

Don the latest in stylish clothing with Tammy Tan's marvelous line of cocktail dresses in earth-toned colors. Be inspired by the Hale Bob collection that spells out sexy, elegance, and style.

Get fashionably fun and flirty with the summer flirting collection of Baubles, Bangles n' Beads.

Turn a la bohemme, Miss Glam, or even a trapeze artist with exciting fashion pieces from Silly Me Clothing. Its hand-made fabric belts and bags are definite must-haves!

Go vintage with Julena's interesting and elegant cameos and lockets. Hit the beach with Tantease' beachwear apparel that boasts of innovative style and design.

Get cool and comfy with Ichigo Shoes' collection that ranges form ballet flats, platforms, wedges, pumps, and suede shoes and come in all different styles and colors.

Inject a dose of the orient with Willow Works' enchanting kimono bags. Create the perfect ambience for your home with adorable art and home pieces from Beads and Beyond.

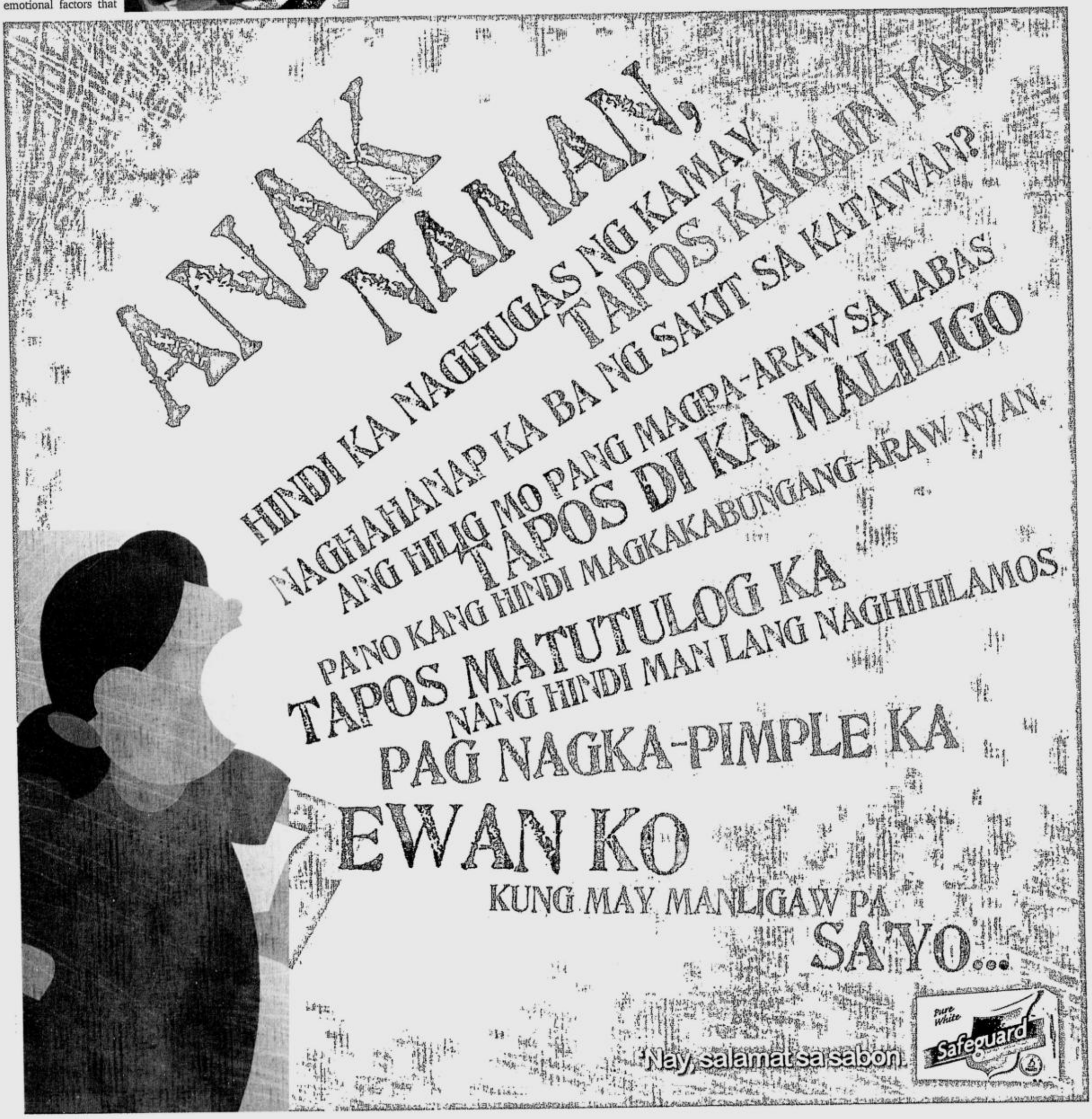
Whether you're a style savvy fashionista on a hunt for that unique and fabulous fashion find or someone looking to add that certain degree of flair and inspiration to your home, the Rockwell Tent is definitely the place for you today.

Mother's Day gift ideas from Orocan

ONLY ONCE IN A YEAR DO we get to pay tribute to one of the most important persons in our lives-our mother. In gratitude to all mothers' contribution to their families, Orocan the world-class maker of innovative household plastic offers exciting Mother's Day gift ideas that she would truly appreciate. Make Mom's domestic chores a lot more manageable with the Orocan Kitchen Queen. The Orocan Kitchen Queen is a three-in-one kitchen organizer that guarantees help in keeping kitchens clean and organized.

It is a multi-purpose kitchen partner as it is packed with a detachable kitchen butler, spacious dish rack, and a cutlery & utensil organizer. It is also equipped with a magnetic door to keep the compartment always closed and protect the dishes from dust. If you want, you can give her the Kitchen butler that is also sold separately.

The Kitchen Butler is versatile and functional in its own right. She can have it as a glass container, as a bread butler, or even as temporary food storage. These items are available in peach, blue, green, red and tapioca colors. You need not worry even with a really tight budget because Orocan products offer true value for your money. Make your Mother's Day celebration an exciting event. Give your moms Orocan products that will make them feel truly special.



Mommy-friendly cars for a more secure ride

Mother's Day Special 2007

KIA Carens

Compiled by Tessa R. Salazar

WOMEN'S MATERNAL INSTINCTS have led to the introduction of many safety features in the automobile. Twenty-two years ago at the 11th Global Summit of Women, the South China Morning post quoted Filipino activist Irene Natividad, the first Asian American to be elected president of America's National Women's Political Caucus, saying women were the ones who fought for the inclusion of safety belts and child-proof locks in cars.

"It was a woman engineer who developed that," Natividad quipped. Later on, Natividad was named one of the "25 Most Influential Working Mothers" (1997) by Working Mother Magazine, among other recognitions.

Natividad also cited a US study that women make or influence 80 percent of buying decisions, from food to cars to homes. Women in the States also buy more cars than do men. She noted during the Global Summit of Women that Ford, Daimler-Chrysler and General Motors have all hired women engineers to figure out how to design cars that would be

CARS/ P2

Gain Plus Advance welcomes Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo

Gain Plus Advance hosted a special media event to mark the launch of Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo as its newest endorser. The multi-awarded actress currently appears in the Gain Plus Advance campaign together with her son, Jacobo Lagdameo.

"Mommy Moments with Dawn" was truly a fun and informative affair. Members of the media paid close attention to the special program that focused on early literacy and language formation.

A guest speaker was Dr. Marcelino "Mark" G. Reysio-Cruz III, a Diplomate of the Philippine Pediatric Society and a Fellow of the Philippine Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics. He talked about a child's key skills in early learning and how mothers can best encourage their children to attain their utmost intellectual capacity.

Another speaker was Eva Fetalino-Perez, Marketing Manager of Gymboree Play and Music Center, who talked about the important role of parents in a child's physical, intellectual and social development. A global leader in early childhood development, Gymboree offers an innovative parent-child program for newborns and children up to five years of age.

Guests were treated to a short video presentation that showed behind-the-scene footage of the Gain Plus Advance commercial. An open forum followed, where Dawn delighted the audience with her Mommy tales, complete with live funny tricks from Jacobo. It was capped with a special Gymboree demonstration with Jacobo and other kiddie guests.

Early nutrition truly influences a child's mental performance. Key skills like early literacy and language form the foundation of a child's learning ability. Therefore, it is important that a child gets all the essential nutrients during his formative years.

Gain Plus Advance with the Advance Eye-Q Nutrition System is a unique combination of nutrients such as DHA, Taurine, and Choline.

"Mommy Moments with Dawn" focused on the importance of a child's early learning skills. With Dawn are (from left to right) Abbott Nutrition International - Gain Plus Advance Associate Product Manager Rhea Pinlac, Pediatric Nutrition Division Marketing Manager Theresa Jaque, Regional Director Edwin Feist, Product Manager Paolo Salcedo and General Manager Rene Bastl.

ADVT

Mommy-friendly cars for a more secure ri

VOLVO YCC

From page P1

Ah, details

Aside from the "ponytail" depression, storage for an umbrella sits right at the driver's door. There are also storage spaces for a laptop and a handbag beside the space where the handbrake and gear levers should have been located. The parking brake is already electronic, and the gear lever is situated right by the steering wheel.

Since bags are more common than passengers in the rear seats, these seats are folded up until rear passengers actually come around and need them.

Female power

The YCC is no softie where it matters most, however. This concept car is designed with a 215-hp, five-cylinder Volvo PZEV engine that plays rough but clean, as it complies with the toughest emissions standards in certain US "green" states such as California.

The six-speed powershift gearbox with dual wet clutch transmission ensures gear changes are always at the right revs. The "fun" and "guiltless" part of driving this car, said the Volvo team, would be the smooth drive and lower fuel consumption.

An Integrated Starter-Generator would shut off the engine when the car is not in motion, but would start the engine up instantly with the help of an electric motor, in the process adding 10 percent to the fuel mileage.

Back to reality

But the YCC, like the perfect action femme Lara Croft, is a dream that's still on the drawing boards. In a more realistic situation, a Mom mobile is actually available in the Philippines, and its maker's name reflects the feminine touches.

Just this March (Women's Month), the Mercedes-Benz showroom of CATS Motors Inc at The Fort in Makati City held a tribute to women and invited 134 women Benz owners.

There CATS Motors, Mercedes' exclusive distributor in the Philippines, revealed the Mercedes Benz B170 as the most preferred Benz model in the country among women buyers. Behind the B170 in the order of preference are the C 180 with 16 percent and the E 200 and 280, both with 14 percent.

The B170 is the "do-it-all" Benz-mobile because of its spacious interior (Inquirer Motoring loaded it with three mountain bikes inside), practical and safety features (the "sandwich" concept provides a higher seating attractive to women, and that these manufacturers were already investing substantially in advertising that targeted women.

With women paying attention to details, Forbes Autos website story "Style and Substance: Top 10 Luxury Cars Driven by Women" cited subtlety, sophistication and safety (as well as horsepower) as what mattered most for women car buyers. Styling and aesthetics alone won't win women over, added the article, as women become more practical than men when it comes to cars.

So what vehicles do modern mothers dream of nowadays?

Volvo, in its usual no-nonsense manner of making luxury cars, let the women do the designing themselves in the YCC car. The "Your Concept Car", made by women for women, represents almost everything ideal for mothers.

The YCC is an elegant sports coupe that looks as hefty as the Volvo S60. The unveiling of this concept car revealed more muscle in an easy-clean chameleon silk paint, broad glass fastback roofline (with wide rear windows up to the end of the car with more visibility at the four corners), and gull-wing doors with drop-down sill for easy entry and exit.

It is the first car designed by an entirely female team (eight women engineers and designers from Volvo Sweden), but it isn't the first designed for women (Dodge's La Femme of the '50s with swiveling seats for easy entry and exit for a mini-skirted driver was the first).

The gull-wing door can rise 60 cm and drop automatically, allowing the woman driver and her load (presumably groceries and shopping bags) to enter or exit easily.

During the demonstration, the steering wheel moved forward and the driver's seat moved back to make more room for an entering driver. After docking the key into the center console, the steering wheel, pedals, head restraints and seatbelt adjusted to her pre-set personalized driving position, which then gave her optimum line of vision and driving comfort.

Collectively called the "ergovision" system, the driver's body configuration is scanned at the dealer, and the data gathered from the scan is programmed into the YCC's drive and key system.

In the demo, a 9-month-pregnant driver showed how she could easily slide in and out of the driver's seat with the help of the car's gull-wing door and "ergovision" system.

Illustrating the feminine touch of the YCC is the "ponytail" space-a depression-found at

MERCEDES Benz B170

the middle of the headrest.

The pedal feature can adjust itself to accommodate high heels. Talk about an ultimate career mom car!

The "parking assist" computes for the driver if a prospective parking space can fit the car (that's certainly useful for both sexes). A "parallel parking assist" or "autopark" feature adjusts the steering while the driver controls the accelerator, brakes and gearshift.

These features were added on as part of a "wish list" of both women and men in a survey conducted before designing the car. The team said the cross-sex survey would dispel misgivings that the added features were meant to serve only the concerns of female drivers (or maybe dispel the myth that females were the weaker "parkers").

And since most busy moms wouldn't have time to pop open the hood and check on the engine every now and then, the YCC design does away with hoods and prefers the installation of an automatic diagnostic system showing the schedules of Volvo servicing. This includes a warning system reminding owners when to bring the car to the Volvo shop for an oil change.

With no hood to open, a capless ball valve is in place to put in the washer fluid.

design and double floor, which allows the engine and transmission to slide away from the occupants in high-speed collision).

The B170 somehow "grew" on its market over the years. It was a humble fifth in 2005, cornering only 13 percent of the market, with the C180, E200 and the SLK200 hogging the ladies' attention.

Carens

Another new mommy car design would be an MPV, a multipurpose vehicle-a compact 7-seater. And Inquirer Motoring was able to test drive one of the newest-and cheapest-examples of the MPV. The Kia Carens, with a 1998-cc gas engine and a rough fuel mileage of 10 km per liter in a combination of highway and city driving, is a bargain at just P818,000.

The Carens' road clearance is not too high nor too low. It's just right for even sub-five footer ladies to comfortably board and alight from. The drive height is also enough for the diminutive to feel in command of the road, thanks to the pump-adjust seat that is quick to adjust to one's desired height.

And just like in a car, it would be easy for drivers to estimate the frontal distances, unlike other MPVs Inquirer Motoring has tested. The Carens is also easy to park, more so with the addition of a back sensor.

The slanting gear shifter-control board at the center console is within easy reach and visibility.

Kia also revealed that the interior of the Carens is fitted with microfilters that help prevent the carpeting, lining and upholstery from getting dirtied by pollution.

In terms of safety, however, there is one important detail that may concern some Moms. Like many MPVs, Carens (at least the one that was introduced a few months ago) is not equipped with an ABS (antilock brake system, needed for steering wheel control when applying emergency braking maneuvers). And in terms of airbag allotment, it only has one-for the driver's side. To its credit, though, Carens has two three-point seatbelts at the second and third rows.

With women paying attention to details, Forbes Autos website story 'Style and Substance: Top 10 Luxury Cars Driven by Women' cited subtlety, sophistication and safety

PLDT Home Rewards stretches Mother's Day all year long

SURELY, MOMS DESERVE MORE THAN ONE day dedicated to them out of 365 days a year. After all, they've been with us from the start-guiding us, caring for us and putting us first before everything else. This Mother's Day, it's her turn to be queen, but not just for a day. With PLDT's new Home Rewards Card, she can be royalty for a year.

Bigger, better and jam-packed with more perks, the PLDT Home Rewards Card is an all-access pass to indulgence for you and your family. The PLDT Home Rewards Card is easy to use and valid for the whole year. Simply present it to any of over 140 partner establishments nationwide and avail of discounts, freebies and special privileges only cardholders can enjoy.

Forget about vouchers. Stop fussing with accumulated points. And have your mom put away those cutout coupons. As long as you have your PLDT Home Rewards Card on hand, all these perks are instantly yours.

For starters, why don't you surprise your mom with a lovely bouquet of roses? Simply visit 904 Madison Building, Arnaiz Avenue, Makati, and present your home Rewards Card when you buy a dozen flowers, and you will get another dozen for free!

Or you can log on to www.myflowerdepot.com to purchase online. Cardholders will receive SMS and e-mail advisories on the special discount code they can use to avail of this great offer. They may also call 101-838 to get the special discount code.

If scouring the mall for a Mother's Day gift is proving to be a challenge, then treat her to a day of pampering using your PLDT Home Rewards Card. Have her hair done at Ystilo at 20 percent off select services. Choose David's Salon and get 10 percent off hair services. Indulge in facials and massages together at The Spa and take advantage of a P200 discount for services P780 and above or visit Mendez and get 50 percent off on diamond peel and facial cleaning with vacuum and laser. You can also drop by Foot Options Spa for 10 percent off foot massage and 20 percent off body, hair, scalp and mint facial treatments. Your mom will feel radiant and rejuvenated after her amazing makeover.

At night, celebrate Mother's Day with an amazing family dinner. For a minimum food purchase, cardholders get free crostini appetizer at Pasto and Trio restaurants; and free imperial spring rolls at ZAO.

And here's a little something for grandmothers too. As part of its 75th anniversary, Negros Navigation offers PLDT Home Rewards cardholders a free ticket for their mom, grandma or any relative who is 75 years of age. When claiming the free ticket, the cardholder must be accompanied by the recipient with a valid ID or senior citizen's card.

So subscribe now to enjoy these and other instant treats all year long. And what better way than to start on Mother's Day. It's about time you give your mom what she truly deserves, a PLDT Home Rewards Card.

For more details, you can check your PLDT bill inserts. The PLDT Home Rewards Card Application Form is available online at www.mypad.net. You may also call 101-838 for more information.

Dencio's offers 2-in-1 treat

DENCIO'S, KNOWN FOR ITS WIDE array of Filipino and grilled menu served in a relaxed, welcoming and modern dining atmosphere, is treating Moms to two special treats this Mother's Day.

A free bar of Goat's Milk Soap will be given to all mothers who dine at Dencio's today. They can also choose from three variants: pink for the fragrant beauty bar, blue for the whitening kind with moisturizer, and the white moisturizing bar. The promo is applicable while supplies last.

On top of this, each bar of soap comes with a Bounce Back Gift Tag which will entitle moms to a free Turon de Sorbetes on her next visit. All she has to do is present the Gift Tag before ordering. The complimentary sweet treat is valid until June 15 and is applicable only for dine-in transactions.

There's much more on the menu to please Mom at Dencio's, including the best-tasting Sisig, Krispy Pata, Sari-Saring Sinugba and other Filipino specialties.

In addition, Dencio's is ideal for any-day-of-the-week gimmicks with families and friends. Dencio's is also perfect for parties, big meetings or company functions. Reservations can be made online at www.dencios.biz or call 819-0155 for details.

Visit Dencio's at Rockwell, CCP Complex, Metrowalk, Eastwood, Scout Albano, Banawe, Brittany Bay, Greenhills, Araneta Center, Capitol Hills, Jupiter, Las Piñas, Paseo Center, Robinsons Ermita, SM Megamall, Paseo de Magallanes, Tarlac, Camp John Hay, SM Baguio, SM City Clark, Robinsons Dasmarinas, Robinsons Starmills and Tagaytay. Soon to open are branches at Isabela, The Fort and Trinoma Mall, Quezon City.

TREATS FOR MOM
Celebrate Mother's Day with mouth-watering Parisian macaroons in a coffee cake box from The French Baker. The sweet and luscious taste of delightful macaroons and assorted petite coffee cakes is perfect for a morning or afternoon bonding treat with Mom. Choose from a wide variety of delectable treats: banana walnut, blueberry and mango streusels, carrot bars, real chocolate brownies, Portuguese tarts, red cherry and blueberry Danish, and cream puffs. These tasty delights are best enjoyed with the rich flavors of a hot cup of Tchibo Coffee, St. Dalfour Organic Tea, or Ghirardelli Hot Chocolate. Visit any of The French Baker's 32 branches in and around Metro Manila, including Pampanga, Dasmariñas, Metro Cebu, with the newest outlet located at SM City in Sta. Mesa.

4 food stops for Mother's Day

IN TAKING MOM OUT ON MOTHER'S DAY, consider these points to help you decide on the perfect treat for her. One, the place has to be really special, as special as she is. Two, as mom is a whiz in the kitchen, the food has to be impressive. Three, consider how interesting the restaurant's Mother's Day offers are.

Given these criteria, four restaurants easily make it to the top of the list. The new restaurant Fish & Co. is a winner with its unique menu offerings of seafood in a pan. Fish & Co. also offers cute beaded cutlery for mothers who will dine on Mother's Day.

Italianni's is also an obvious choice as one of the best-loved restaurants in the metro today because of its really good food. On Mother's Day, Italianni's rewards mothers with kitchen timers in exchange for some expert motherly advice.

If you want to go super special on mom's special day, then treat her to some juicy, tender and very special steak. Outback serves one of the best steaks in town, and for Mother's Day, mom gets to bring home a wonderful pair of useful cooking gloves.

TGI Friday's completes the top four with its casual, fun dining atmosphere and big servings meant for sharing. On Mother's Day, mom will be delighted to get a free Friday's tote bag!

Moms shine at The Podium

LET MOM SHINE ON MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 13 as The Podium showcases sparkling gifts of love from the mall's jewelry stores. Long known for their elegant and timeless designs, Hans Brumann, La Elegancia, Hoseki, Jewelmer, and Miladay continue to dazzle Moms of all ages. New generation Moms, on the other hand, will love the innovative pieces at Laura's Jewelry and Wildflower by Inky Nakpil.

More than that, a minimum purchase at the mall on Mother's Day entitles one to participate in the hourly raffle and a chance to win gift certificates and items from participating jewelry tenants.

Hans Brumann, one of the country's leading jewelers, has created many a custom piece for stylish women in the Philippine society. It's been quite a journey for Brumann, who is Swiss by birth, and learned and honed his craft in Zurich, Germany, and London. He arrived in Manila in 1967 to work for the prestigious La Estrella del Norte, established his own jewelry store in 1976, and he has since made the Philippines his home.

Each Hans Brumann piece is as unique as its wearer, as his designs combine both his creative and technical flair. These are pieces crafted with passion, precision, and imagination. And he continues to attract women of style in his store at the Second Level of The Podium.

For Mother's Day, Hans Brumann suggests sparkling bouquets of affection: French clip earrings shaped like autumn leaves rustling with yellow sapphires, garnets, diamonds, and tourmaline; blossom shaped diamond studded brooches; and sunflower shaped earring and ring set with sunstone and cabochon garnets set in 18K yellow gold.

La Elegancia, on the other hand, sparkles with authenticity and elegance with its jewelry items. While it has been established over 60 years ago, its collection at its new store at the ground Level of the Podium has a fresh appeal for the modern woman.

For Mother's Day it has beautifully crafted diamond and sapphire heirloom style bracelets with a fresh fashion twist; flower shaped mother of pearl pendant with 18K rose gold; south sea pearls with rose cut diamonds; and and two toned gold and white rose with diamonds.

Hoseki has long been known for its artistically designed jewelry - bold, experimental, and original. Man of the the pieces at its showroom at The Podium, come it sets, making it easy to make it match your wardrobe.

It has breathtaking designs that would dazzle Moms of all ages. These include the intricate Forbidden bangle in gold, south sea pearls, and colored stones; leaf designed orange agate earrings and pendants; and a Mammoth Tusk Mermaid Brooch with amethyst stones.

Jewelmer showcases the South Sea Pearl, which has been called our national gem. Considered the best in the world, South Sea Pearls are grown from the rare pintcada maxima oyster found in the seas of Palawan, Tawi Tawi, and Sulo.

For almost 30 years, Jewelmer has become known as one of the premiere South Sea Pearl producers in the world. Committed to the highest standards in every step of pearl farming, it offers quality, excellence, customer service, and satisfaction.

Like pearls, mothers are priceless, and for Mother's Day Jewelmer recommends the Fiorelli ring set with a golden South Sea pearl; and South Sea Pearl rose earrings.

Miladay is a must-see jewelry stores for Moms as many have grown up with its exquisite designs. The kiosk at The Podium is modern, with a touch of nostalgia, creating a very friendly, warm, and inviting atmosphere. Mom will simply love Miladay's multicolored floral necklace set or its flower shaped pearl and silver earrings.

Laura's Jewels, on the other hand, are perfect for modern Moms. It opened its first store at The Podium early this year, and has been attracting young and fashionable customers.

Laura's, which is named after its owner Laura de Guzman, is known for its eye popping cocktail rings and jewelry that are a mixture of semi precious stones with designs straight out of the art deco era. There is something exotic about her jewelry as the stones are sourced from India and Bangkok and are set here. Most designs are silver and gold based with styles that are both classy and trendy with a hint of modernity.

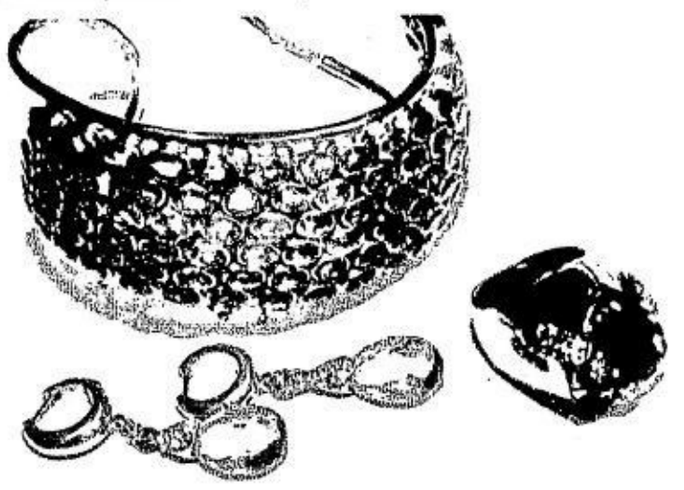
Modern day Moms will love Laura's cocktail rings with large stones like amethysts and red zircon set with flowers or butterflies.

Wildflower by Inky Nakpil is another jewelry store that will appeal to modern day Moms. Owned by Renea "Inky" Nakpil, who's both a journalist and jewelry designer, Wildflower offers rodium plated silver and gold jewelry and accessories. The stones come from Austria, the other jewelry items from Singapore, with the settings and designs crafed here.

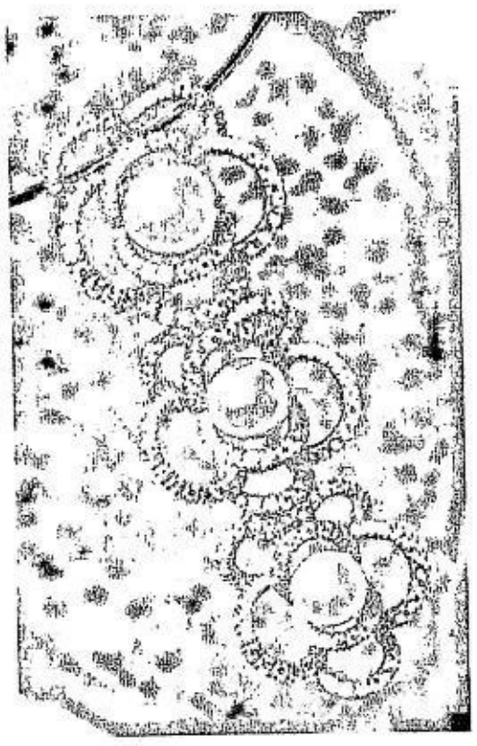
Mother's will simply be charmed by Wildflower's charm bracelets and rodium plated bouquet of flowers.

Let Mom shine with tokens of love from Hans Brumann, La Elegancia, Hoseki, Jewelmer, Miladay, Laura's Jewel's and Wildflower by Inky Nakpil. All stores are located at The Podium in Ortigas Center.

ESPECIALLY for moms! Give her a bouquet of rodium plated silver flower bouquet on Mother's Day.

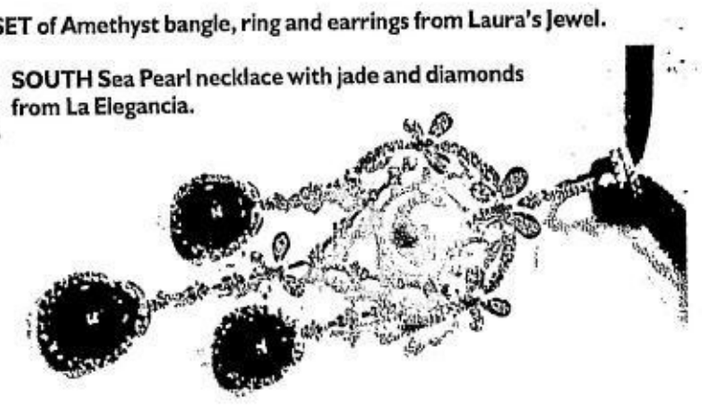


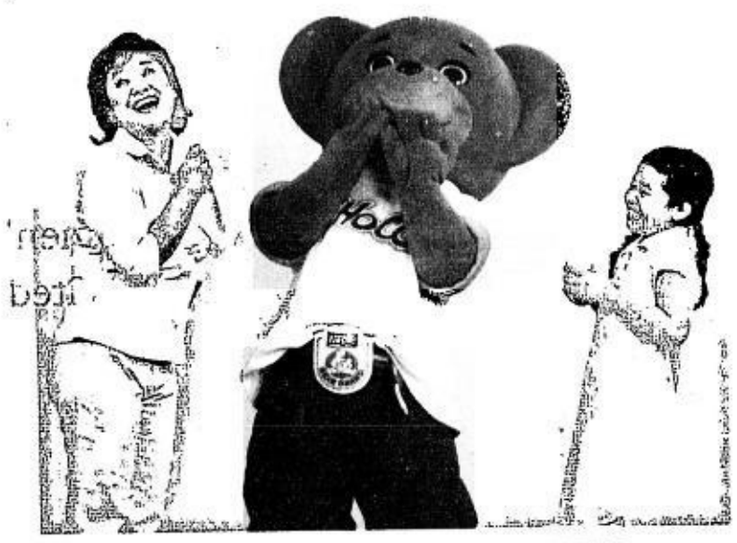
SET of Amethyst bangle, ring and earrings from Laura's Jewel.



ROSE pendant enhancer with South Sea Pearls of mixed colors surrounded by diamond petals.

SOUTH Sea Pearl necklace with jade and diamonds from La Elegancia.





EUGENE AND KIRAY: MOTHER & DAUGHTER TANDEM FOR BEAR BRAND CHOCO

Comediennes Eugene Domingo and Kiray Celis bring their hilarious brand of humor to the television advertisements of the new Bear Brand Choco, the newest beverage that combines the goodness of Bear Brand Filled Milk with the delicious and exciting taste of chocolate. Like Eugene and Kiray, moms and kids will also be surprised that the new Bear Brand Choco not only has the chocolatey taste that they will surely love but also the same health-giving properties of Bear Brand Filled Milk. It also contains the resistance-building benefits of Zinc and Vitamin C. Bear Brand Choco is perfect for mothers whose kids are experiencing what is known as milk taste fatigue syndrome. With its irresistible taste,Bear Brand Choco will surely have your kids drinking milk once more. Giving Bear Brand Choco to your kids also gives you value for your money. At P15.50 for every 60 gram pack, you can already give 2 glasses of the chocolatey and nutritious Bear Brand Choco to your child. With new Bear Brand Choco it's now easy to keep your kids happy and healthy at the same time. Try it today. Your family will surely enjoy The Milk That's Choco!

Moms 'n Kids Fair set at SM Megamall

ENJOY AN EXTENDED Mothers' Day celebration as the SM Megatrade Hall and event manager Cut Unlimited present the first-ever Moms 'n Kids Fair from May 18 to 20 at the SM Megamall.

The event promises to be enjoyable and educational with a host of unique and family-friendly activities like swimming for beginners by swimwear firm WS Sports, Power Camp by Alaska Milk and My Mom's Best Pambaon Recipe by Magnolia.

There will also be star-studded portions with the Moms Segment hosted by Manilyn Reynes and Lani Mercado, QTV's "Ka-Toque" cooking demos, and do-it-yourself segments by Wilma Doesn't, Lucy Torres and other QTV celebrities.

Arts and crafts workshops, kiddie fashion shows, cooking demos, giant playgrounds, and My Mom and Me look-alike contests, a mascot and costume parade, and a fashion show by apparel and footwear company Abbylyn will liven up the show.

The first Moms 'n Kids Fair is presented by Dari Creme and Junior Inquirer, in cooperation with Alaska Milk, E-aji Dip Snax, Magnolia Ice Cream, Magnolia Cheezee, Star Margarine, Magnolia Pancake Plus, SM Storyland and Goldilocks.

Media partners are QTV's "Moms", "Ka-Toque" and "Sweet Life", Disney and Me, K-Zone, Total Girl, Disney Princess, Witch, UNO Mobile and Inquirer.net.

Moreover, bask in a wide array of prominent exhibitors offering family-oriented products and services such as Bank of the Philippine Islands, Citibank NA, Insular Life, Philamlife, Club Ultima, Hero Great Bites, Gruppo Medica Inc, Philamlife, School of Tomorrow, Wheatberry, Waters Philippines, Pascual Laboratories, Bridges Bookstore by Goodwill Bookstore, Afficionado, Casa de Instruccion, Marcella, and Bankee, among others.

For inquiries, call 687-3292 or e-mail cut@pldtdsl.net.

A card for Mom

IT'S MOTHER'S DAY! HAVE YOU PLANNED for this special occasion? Cramming to come up with a surprise for mom at the last minute? Now, if you want to give her something she'll really, really love, here's a tip: the best gift is one that comes from the heart... and goes straight to the stomach!

That's why there's a VIP card waiting for your mommy when you take her to CPK, the ultimate gastronomical bliss! From May 10 onwards, mom gets to choose one of three CPK specialties for free: Sesame Ginger Chicken Dumplings. Sesame ginger chicken wrapped in delicate wonton dumplings seasoned in a mild soy-ginger chili sauce and topped with toasted sesame seeds and scallions.

Garlic Cheese Focaccia With Checca. Italian-style pizza bread topped with Mozzarella cheese, garlic and herbs, hearth baked and served with a mix of fresh Roma tomatoes, basil, garlic and extra-virgin olive oil.

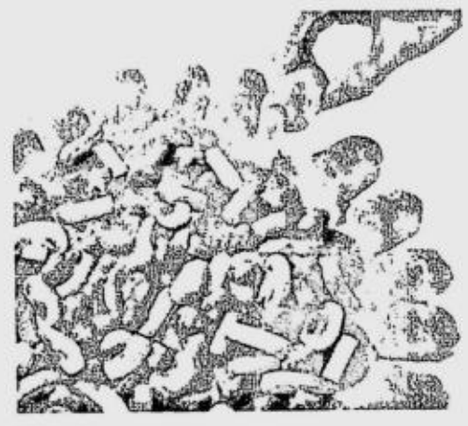
Valrhona Chocolate Cake. Rich chocolate cake with creamy dulce de leche filling. Served with fresh whipped cream.

And, while there is a minimum purchase requirement of P1,200, isn't it time you get mom out of the kitchen and treat her to a feast she most definitely deserves?

Let the CPK chefs double the magic of Mother's Day with delicious dishes the whole family can enjoy! Celebrate Mother's Day at any of these CPK branches: Glorietta 3 Makati, Corte de las Palmas Alabang Town Center, 2/F Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Bellagio Square Tomas Morato and Promenade Greenhills.

Fun in a Pan: Pizza Hut offers cheesy goodness in a pop

SATISFY MOM'S CHEESE CRAVINGS THIS Mother's Day. After stuffed crust and cheesy volcano, Pizza Hut, one of the country's biggest pizza chains, now presents Cheesy pops: your favorite pizza only got better with a twisted, pullable cheesy crust delectably stuffed with mozzarella, parmesan and cheddar. Enticing everyone to a whole new pizza experience, this new offering is a culinary feast that is sure to give new meaning to delightful eating. And because it is bigger than the normal pan pizza, not to mention that it has pullable stuffed crusts, it is definitely a fun way to treat Mom. Aesthetically and tastefully good, Cheesy pops brings the stuffed crust fad two notches higher. A huge hit in the United States, Malaysia, Korea, and Singapore, where it was first introduced, this offering is also something that the Filipinos will surely enjoy. With this new twist in your favorite pan pizza, Pizza Hut is not only offering Filipinos a scrumptious feast for their palate, they are also presenting something that families and friends will definitely have fun sharing.



Tropezz offers a unique dining experience

FEW PLACES IN THE WORLD RIVAL SAN TROPEZ AS A PARTY place. An island off the coast of France, it is frequented by the rich and famous including international celebrities like rapper P. Diddy and designer Versace for its bohemian-cosmopolitan spirit and community.

No wonder, San Tropez is the inspiration behind Tropezz, a resto-bar in Greenbelt 3, Makati. A 200-seater joint, it channels the vibe of its namesake to offer Manila's party people a unique blend of experience in dining, entertainment, and vicariously living the good life.

Tropezz opened up the feel of the place by maximizing the number of tables inside, without compromising privacy, seen through its glass doors and panels. Designed by the sought-after Anna Rocha, its interiors is relaxed but sophisticated ambience of white-painted walls, pin-striped black carpet, and playfully abstract artwork.

The view of the whole Greenbelt complex that Tropezz offers to customers especially at night is enough reason for people to visit the place. Situated in the middle of the complex, one can bask in the beauty of Greenbelt 3 from Tropezz veranda.

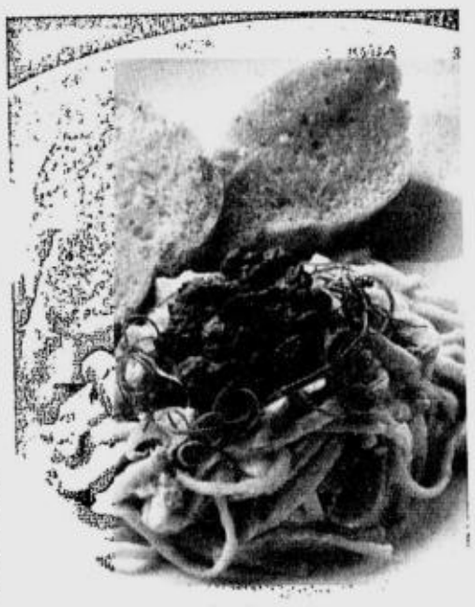
Like Tavern on The Square which used to occupy the place, Tropezz is bent on discovering future superstars. Taking chances on upcoming acts, this is where you will find artists dishing out popular repertoire but with a tweak. There is no cover charge—just come and enjoy pure entertainment at its best over dinner. The stage is so big that wherever you are seated is vantage point.

Tropezz, being the so-called new kid on the block, is a favored venue for special functions and shows. It has function room without curtains and blinds. Even divas like Dessa and Jenine Desiderio, and avante-garde electronic band Updharmadown fell in love with the place when they saw it and staged shows there soon after.

The real come-on of Tropezz is on its appetizing menu. Indulge yourself with Tropezz's Belly Mucho that is slow roasted pork marinated in mandarin oranges and hoisin sauce. The meat is so tender (tenderized for three hours no less) that you practically could gulp it down as soon as it hits your tongue.

The Caviar de Ifugao is very interesting. According to Tropezz chef Arnulfo, the cream cheese spread is mixed with butter and *tinapa*. No wonder it's truly Filipino flavor albeit on the exotic side! As with the other items on the menu, Caviar de Ifugao is presented according to international island cuisine standards. Dishes used are in white to better "frame" gustatory art works.

And this is where the secret of Tropezz's success lies: The menu has a little bit of everything that one need not go to another place. You want Chinese cuisine? Italian? French? All you have to do is choose from its wide variety of menu.



LINGUINI de adobo

same gender. However, it can also be a family restaurant because of its wholesome ambience and commendable food.

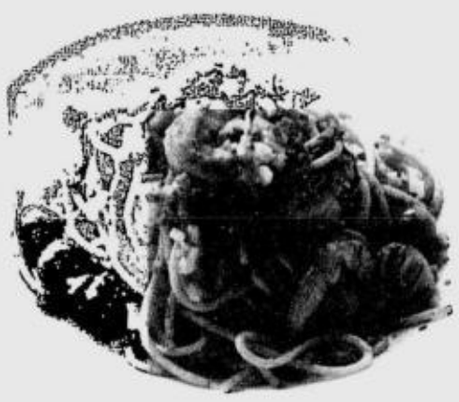
For the coming Mother's Day, Tropezz offers a special promo for the whole family. There is an all-day 50-percent off on non-alcoholic Mojito and buy 1 take 1 on Tropezz bestsellers Spaghetti Tropezz, Caviar de Ifugao, and Adobo Linguini. What better way to celebrate and honor our beloved mothers than to treat her and the whole family with a unique dining experience and a sumptuous meal that only Tropezz could give.

Delectable, too, is their cake creation called Original Sin. Made without flour, the chocolate scintillates the taste buds and stays on the tongue. Their Halo-Halo Cheesecake is also to-die-for.

A rather naughty beverage creation only available in Tropezz is called "Deep Throat." A combination of coffee liqueur and cream with cinnamon on top in a shot glass, one must take it all in without using hands.

Tropezz is owned and run mostly by women, hence, its concept targeting the

TROPEZZ spaghetti



CAVIAR de Ifugao

Moms eat for free at San Mig Pub Alabang

THIS MOTHERS' DAY, GIVE MOM a break from the ordinary and treat her to the sumptuous food of San Mig Pub and Restaurant Alabang.

Relax amidst the resto's laid-back and cozy ambiance and choose from a wide array of chef's specials: Tuna Casserole, Eggplant Parmigiana, Turmeric Chicken, Fillet of Mahi Mahi in Peppercorn sauce, and Steak Ala Pobre. All entrees are served with Soup of the Day or salad with dessert.

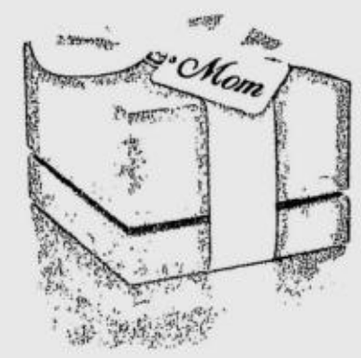
What's more, all mothers get to eat for free when dining with their families of four from San Mig Pub's Mommies' Selection. The offer is not to be combined with any other discount or promotion, the free meal is limited to one for every table.

Get to select also from mom's old-time favorites such as Spanish lunch specials, paellas, prawn thermidore and traditional Filipino delights.

It will definitely be a Mother's Day your mother will always remember.

San Mig Pub is at the second level of Corte delas Palmas, Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa City. For reservations, call 807-3595.

This May 13, remember the woman who means the world to you.



Give mom a very special gift this Mother's Day. Visit the **Mother's Day Jewelry Fair** at The Podium on May 12-13, 2007 and select from a wide array of fine jewelry offered at special prices.

THE PODIUM
your place | your pace

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-0387, Series of 2007

ACTIVITIES
May 12:
4 PM - Jewelry showcase and fashion show
6 PM - Reymond Sajor and Reuben Laurente Mother's Day Show
May 13:
5 PM - The Glee Girls

Hourly raffle exclusively for moms:
Gift Certificates worth P1,000 will be raffled off every hour. To join, moms must register their names at the concierge. No purchase necessary.

Participating jewelry stores:
GOLDWORKS · HOSEKI · Jewelmer

Ha-P si MOMMY!

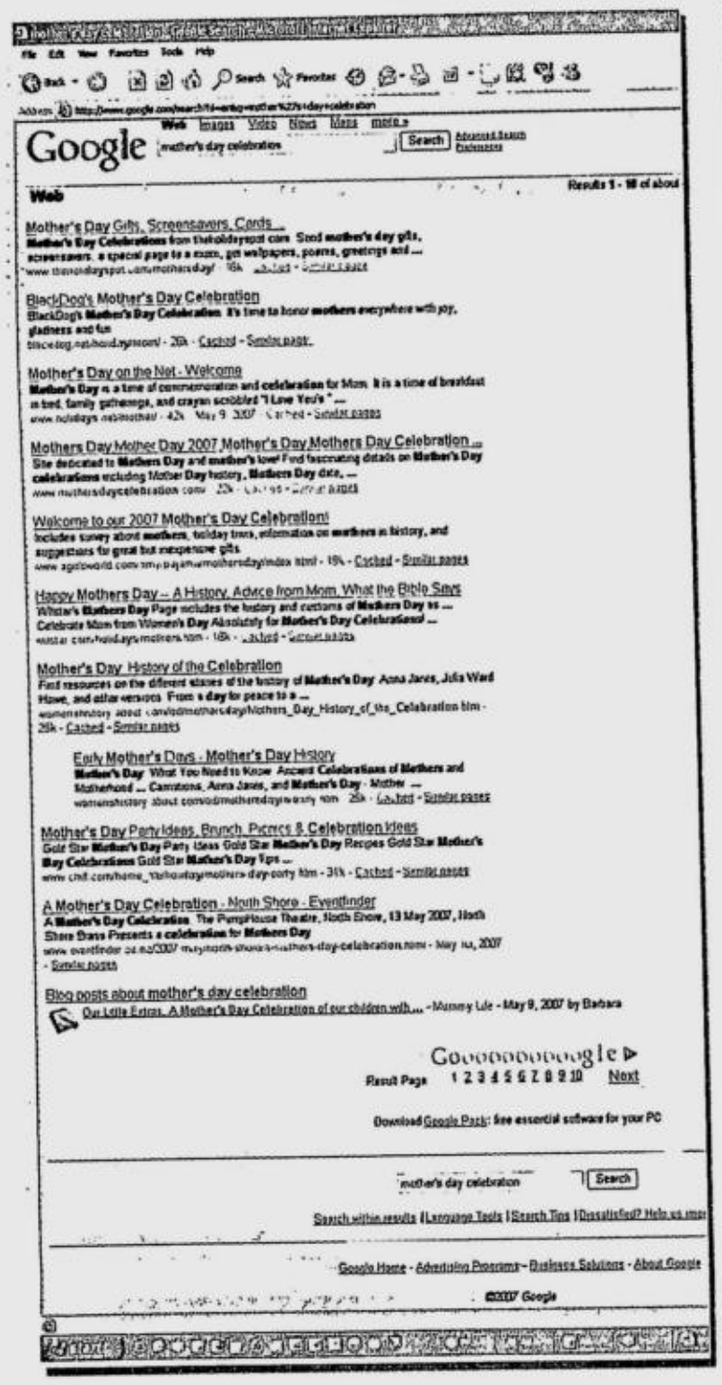
HAPPINESS IS Dr. P ADULT DIAPERS!

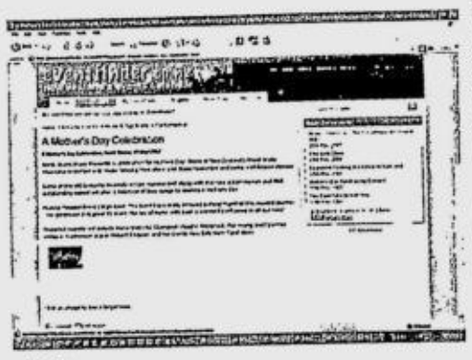
Laging happy si Mommy di lang pag Mother's Day but everyday. Kasi comfortable and no worries with Dr. P adult diapers!

THE #1 ADULT DIAPER

Presyong Kaibigan

Mother's Day a big deal on the Net





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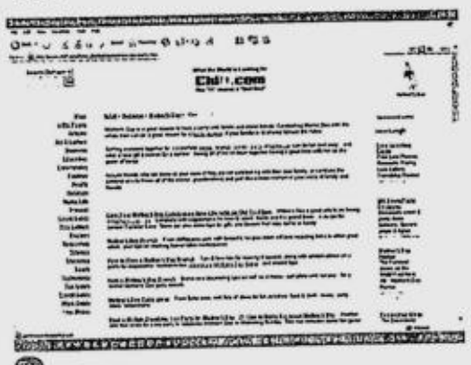

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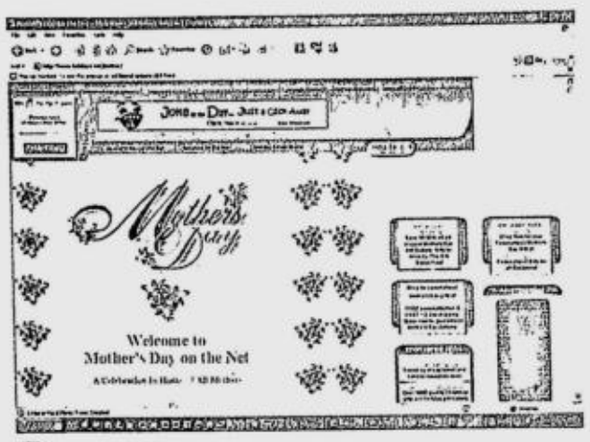

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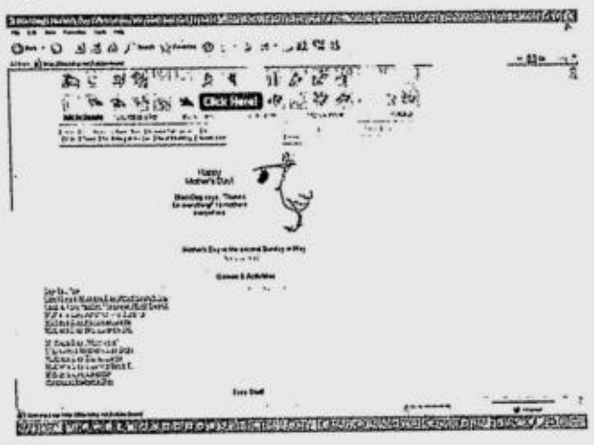

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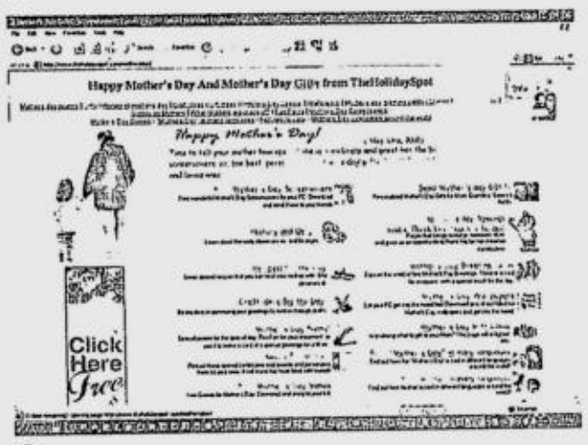

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TRY TYPING ON THE WORDS "MOTHER'S DAY celebration" on the subject field of the popular search engine Google.com, and you'll get about 4,430,000 results. That's a pretty large number, compared to the results you get when you type in "Father's Day celebration" (which produces 1,310,000 results).

Interestingly, though, the search for Mother's Day results took only 0.10 seconds, compared to 0.14 seconds for her parental counterpart. Does this mean the Net has a particular bias for mothers? Hmm, that's another story to contemplate.

But right now, what do the top 10 Google search results for Mother's Day offer us?

Coming in at number 10 is eventfinder.co.nz (www.eventfinder.co.nz/2007/may/north-shore/a-mothers-day-celebration.html - May 10, 2007), a free-membership events calendar that focuses on happenings in and around New Zealand. Events are organized by category (such as festivals, music and sports) to make it easier for visitors to find what they're looking for.

At number 9 is chiff.com (www.chiff.com/home_life/holiday/mothers-day-party.htm). As its main page suggests, chiff.com (where the "ff" means "fast find") is an alternative Web directory guide free of pop-up ads. In its mission statement, chiff.com reveals that it constructed a directory that is neither too long to find what visitors need nor too short to be of any use. Each link within a particular category is selected for its ability to lead visitors to detailed information presented by experts in their field. They, in turn, are glad to provide even more information and resources.

At number 8 and 7 is search engine about.com's (http://womenshistory.about.com/od/mothersday/) Mother's Day celebration history, an extensive collection of Web links related to the history of Mother's Day, as well as Mother's Day quotes and gift ideas.

About.com is one of the most sought after Web guides. It is visited by 29 million surfers every month, and is a top 10 Web property visited by one out of every five Internet users.

The number 6 spot is taken by Wilstar's Mother's Day Page (wilstar.com/holidays/mothers.htm). "M is for the million things she gave me, O means only that she's growing old. T is for the tears she shed to save me, H is for her heart of purest gold. E is for her eyes, with love light shining, R means right, and right she'll always be."

Such passages etched in a bright yellow background may have pushed this web page up front among the most searched Mother's Day sites. Wilstar.com, in general, specializes in "quality family entertainment and learning experiences." The site's owner, science teacher Jerry Wilson from Indianapolis, lends his nickname "Wilstar" (given to him by his students) to the home page.

Teens take over for Mom at number 5, with A Girl's World.com (www.agirlsworld.com/amy/pajama/mothersday), "where girls and teens rule the Web!"

According to its media fact sheet, A Girl's World (AGW) is an "interactive website with classes, programs and materials written and designed for girls, by girls that encourage and empower teens and tweens (7-17 years old) to be active and independent members of their community."

With hundreds of millions of Indian mothers around the world, it's no wonder that the Society for the Confluence of Festivals in India (SCFI)'s Mother's Day Celebration in India webpage (www.mothersdaycelebration.com) is the 4th most searched site for Mother's Day.

The SCFI site describes itself as a "socially responsible manifestation (that) endeavors to create value for the Indian society by introducing the beauty, grace and wisdom embodied in the various festivals of India, thereby preserving India's rich cultural heritage.

"We bring unique customs, traditions and goodness of Indian festivals to form a distinct association known as the Society for the Confluence of Festivals in India. Through this organization, we hope to form a mutual respect for and foster the common bond that various Indian festivals share," it adds.

Number 3 is Holidays on the Net's (www.holidays.net/mother) web pages dedicated to Mother's Day.

The site describes itself as a "beautifully done collection of multimedia holiday celebrations...More than just works of art, though, each holiday celebration also offers a wealth of information about the holiday, including its history and holiday-related activities."

Other holidays include Martin Luther King Jr Day, Valentine's Day, Mardi Gras, Yom Kippur, Ramadan, and even Kwanzaa.

Care for a BlackDog Mother's Day? Apparently, a lot of Net surfers do. At the number 2 spot is BlackDog's Mother's Day celebration web page (blackdog.net/holiday/mom/).

Clicking on the "About BlackDog link" shows, "BlackDog is a large, content-rich, family-friendly site containing several thousand web pages. BlackDog is visited by thousands of people each day, and several million people each month. BlackDog is updated frequently and features educational games and activities, including worksheets, coloring pages, interactive e-books, a large variety of holiday activities, musical postcards, screensavers, web graphics, and more. We make every effort to make sure that everything families see and do on BlackDog is child-safe, fun and interesting."

And now, the top Google search result for Mother's Day Celebration is The HolidaySpot (www.theholidayspot.com/mothersday). Vivid colors and a user-friendly main page attract all types of Net surfers. And for holiday-hungry employees in the Western world (yup, holidays do mean a well-deserved break from work), The HolidaySpot's at-a-glance year-round table of available holidays makes visitors easily plan their holiday activities for the entire year.

Comparatively, a search in YouTube for Mother's Day yielded 3,550 results, compared to 2,560 for Father's Day searches. *Aries B. Espinosa*

Comparatively, a search in YouTube for Mother's Day yielded 3,550 results, compared to 2,560 for Father's Day searches

Beverly Vergel: inside the heart of the mother and mentor

In the span of twenty years, WORKSHOPS@ABS-CBN Director, Beverly Vergel has built a reputation of being an efficient and effective acting mentor who delivers TV shows and movies' acting requirements in the shortest possible time. Over the years, she has trained a wide range of celebrities from the hopefuls, rising stars, child and teen actors, prime artists and showbiz icons in honing their artistic skills. As one of the stand-out, sought-after trainers and life coaches in the industry today, she has taught almost eighty percent of the biggest stars from the 80's Regal babies, Gwapings to the likes of Piolo Pascual, Judy Ann Santos, Kristine Hermosa, John Lloyd Cruz, Bea Alonzo, Heart Evangelista, Pauleen Luna, Angel Locsin, Alfred Vargas, Dennis Trillo, Sam Milby, Kim Chui and Gerald Anderson to name a few. Very motherly, Beverly nurtures their passion for the arts and brings out the best in her students. She looks at each student through the eyes of a mother, shares her warmth and soothing presence, while teaching the essentials of Performing Arts. As she works on exploring their talents, she instills the values of honesty, perseverance, respect, humility and to be God fearing individuals.

When asked of her in being so efficient after all these years, "It is God's gift!" Beverly enthusiastically replied. She believes that at the core of each person is a special God given gift uniquely meant for the person. Beverly patiently guides her students to help discover and develop their very own unique charismatic persona, which the public holds dear to their hearts. Though at times she pushes them past their limits, this is simply because mothers know what is best for their children even if it requires tough love. Remarkably, Beverly gives a part of herself whenever she goes to a class. A self-confessed "infoholic" plus her "360 degrees mind mapping" of diverse personalities, events and scenarios and their interplay, Beverly generously shares her experiences and wisdom to her pupils from past mentors such as acting guru Eric Morris, Johnny Manahan, Laurice Guillen and Marilou Diaz-Abaya. Thus, WORKSHOPS@ABS-CBN has become a second home and a haven for high standards of performance and creativity. She nourishes the student's determination, encourages them to fulfill their dreams and aspirations such that they will be equipped with indispensable skills for the future.

More than her role with WORKSHOPS@ABS-CBN as a trainer, Beverly puts great emphasis on her role as a mother to her daughters, Sydney and Tracy. "It is essential that parents should encourage and nurture their child's passion, for this will truly help them in their development into a well-rounded and a better person in the future" she adds. To share in this mission to support every child's dreams and aspirations, Beverly Vergel together with her team at WORKSHOPS@ABS-CBN is offering year round courses in the Performing and Media Art. This Summer alone, close to a thousand students came and enrolled in the workshops. Programs offered for June include 6 Months Performing Art Workshop (acting, dance, voice, speech), Celebrity Imaging (look and feel like a star), Newscasting and TV Production. For details call 415-3828 or 416-9366 (Monday - Saturday, 10:00 am - 7:00 pm).

Swing for a Cause at Ronald McDonald House Charities' 11th Annual Golf Tournament

There's nothing better to beat Monday sickness than to spend it on the greens for a round of top golf. That's what McDonald's Phils., our partners, sponsors and media friends just did as they took on the rolling fields of Sta. Elena Golf and Country Club for the 11th Annual Ronald McDonald House Charities Golf Tournament.

Ceremonial tee off started at 7:30am officiated by Mr. Kenneth S. Yang, president of Ronald McDonald House Charities. Of course, no Ronald McDonald House Charities Golf Tournament will be complete without Ronald McDonald being part of it. The tournament started 8:30am where 63 teams played best ball scramble.

This year's tourney saw 189 players playing 18 holes at the Sta. Elena golf course. Over all Champion were Arman Perez, Abet Dela Cruz and Melvin Mendoza of Corps Phils; Lowest Gross was Mizuno Team which composed of Paolo Cagalingan, Lovell Gopez and Raymond Sangil. For Class A, McCormick Team which was composed of James Chuaunsu, Sammy Sy and Seve Roxas Chua. For Class B, Pilipinas Teleserv which was composed of Jun Yupitun, Raffy David and Mickey Ocampo. For Class C, 8McDo Team which composed of Jeff Dytuco, Sevi Reyes and Miguel Legarda.

Every swing, every putt, and every stroke was well worth the effort because the proceeds of the tourney will go to the Ronald McDonald House Charities program, Bahay Bulilit. Indeed, the 11th Annual Ronald McDonald House Charities Golf Tournament was a great success with almost P3 million raised.

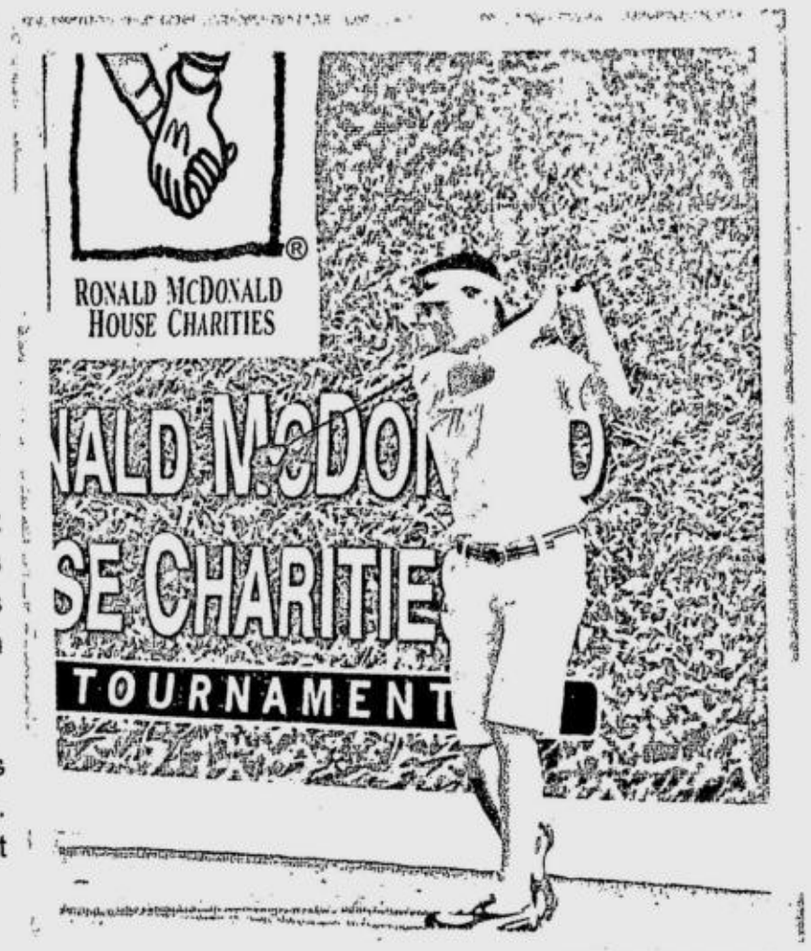
Done in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and local government units, Ronald McDonald House Charities builds day care centers called Bahay Bulilit to offer pre-school education to children of indigent families. Currently, there are nine Bahay Bulilit daycare facilities in the following cities and municipalities: Makati; Mandaluyong; Quezon City; Manila; Pasay; Iloilo City; Taytay Rizal; Balayan and Batangas City in Batangas.

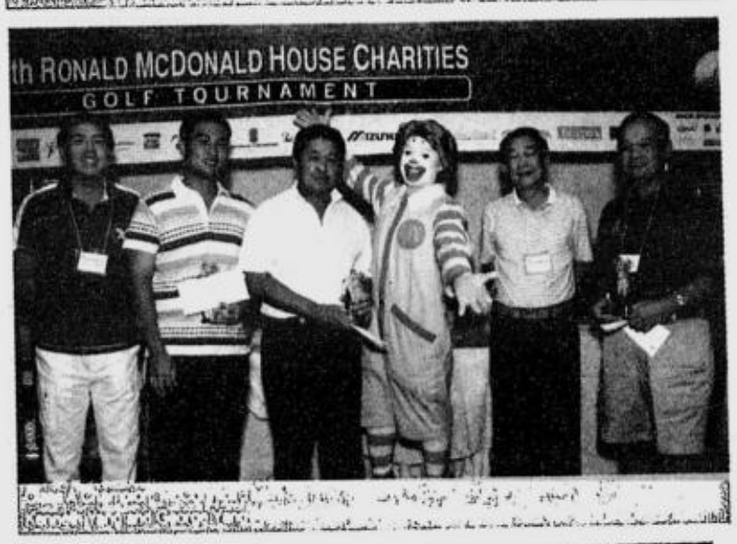
And on May 28, five more Bahay Bulilit in the following areas will be opened: Sta. Cruz, Laguna; Balanga, Bataan; Tanauan, Batangas; Cebu and Zamboanga.

Ronald McDonald House Charities president Kenneth Yang also took the opportunity to thank everybody for helping raise funds to support Ronald McDonald House Charities. "Just like in any golf tourney, we have lots of prizes and surprises in store for participants. But the real big winner here is Ronald McDonald House Charities Bahay Bulilit program. With these players' support and generosity, more underprivileged children will have brighter beginnings at Bahay Bulilit."

Among the major sponsors were: McDonald's Philippines, Genosi, Foster Foods, McCormick, Havi, Coca-Cola, San Miguel Corp., Marsh Phils., Toyota, Lucerne, Mizuno, Phil. Daily Inquirer, Business World, Phil. Star. Minor sponsors were GMA7, ABS CBN, MCI, 88storey Films, DDB, McCain and ICTSI.

Ronald McDonald House Charities brings more smiles to Filipino children across the country with programs like Bahay Bulilit and Bright Minds Read through the support of McDonald's, the world's number one quick service restaurant chain, providing high-quality products at good value.





RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES

11th RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Ngayong araw na ito, kami naman ang aasikaso sa iyo. Happy Mother's Day.
Mc 24 Hours
8 M6 C2 D3 O6 DELIVERS

Mother's Day Special 2007

http://www.susanmeyer.net/galleries/people/mother_and_child.html

Lessons from 'nanay'

By Joel V. Nigos

My mother Dominga was only 18 when she got married. Considered a young age especially with today's standards, she bore her first child, my eldest sister, a year later. The next year, she would give birth to another daughter, then to another. Soon she had five kids, before I came along. We eventually became a bunch of 10 siblings, separated by age by a year or two, the most at four years.

Looking back, I cannot imagine how my mother could have taken good care of all 10 of us. Though she was a full time mother to us, it's hard to see how she was able to juggle her time and energy attending to her children's needs, maintain the household, even help my father put food on the table.

I can say that the woman whom we fondly refer to as "nanay" is a mother who puts her children first before herself, and from that I know we were never shortchanged as her children.

I have vivid memories of my mother when I was a kid. Back in my primary school days, I used to be awakened at midnight by murmurs coming from outside my room. It was so unusual to hear that, especially at such ungodly hours. Going out of the room I recognized that it was my mother praying.

My mother loved to sell anything to earn additional income. She probably must have been into it even before I was born. She used to tag me along whenever she went to Balintawak. There she would buy vegetables, meat and fish which she would sell to our neighbors. An incident happened during one of our trips to Balintawak. On our way to the market, the jeepney which we were riding on lost its breaks. I can no longer remember how the driver was able to pull through. The only thing I can recall was the jeepney making a sudden stop and everybody was rushing to get off the vehicle. Since then, she never brought me again with her to Balintawak.

I became sad then because I would no longer have those trips which kids my age were always excited about. But the enterprising spirit was never lost in me. It has become part of me since.

Nanay now tends a sari-sari store in front of our house. Since all her children are grown up and there are no more young grandchildren to attend to, selling groceries and other merchandise to neighbors keeps her occupied every single day. One time during the weekend, I was at her store. I noticed that she no longer had much stock, considering it was just a few weeks ago when I gave her additional funds to augment her goods. Thinking that she was just not able to buy new supplies, I asked her to replenish her stocks, as our *sukis* would soon ask for them. She answered with a smile

LESSONS/ R2

A HOMAGE TO THE HOMEMAKER

A little girl, asked where her home was, replied, "where mother is."
~Keith L. Brooks

So much has been written about mothers. But it is a fact that without Mom, a house is a little less homey. A dish is a little less of a meal. What is it with Mom's touch that makes everything so special?

SELFLESSNESS.
If there were five people and only four pieces of chicken, a mom would be the first to declare that she never really cared for chicken. And she is never alone in her thoughts, because she always thinks of her children. At the dinner table, she may mislead you into thinking that she's eating. But in reality, she's watching out if you want more rice, if your face needs wiping, or if your COKE glass needs refilling.

ATTENTION TO DETAIL.
Ever noticed the matching cutlery? Sure, mom goes overboard with the decorating sometimes (your glass of COKE may have a crocheted holder) but we should all give her credit for putting in her signature touch. If Dad's a fussy eater, then the bangus would have to be boneless. If Ate is dieting, she'd add veggies to the menu. The whole family's concerns are noted, and it shows in the way she prepares dinner.

IMAGINATION.
Mom will always give you fun food, but you may not be aware that she's actually making you eat a balanced meal in disguise. It is her creativity that puts the magic at mealtimes. The flower on your plate may be a carrot. The pasta dish may be yesterday's leftover. And give or take some more imagining, she can even make the simplest food become a grand feast, even with budget constraints.

THE LIFE OF THE TABLE.
Mealtimes are more than just a time to eat, but an occasion to bond, and Mom makes sure that food as well as conversation would be flowing. Here, she announces everything, from jokes to gossip, to national events – filling you in on what you need to know about your family, or even life in general. Call it a discourse during the main course, she definitely knows how to bring out the chatter and the laughter on the table.

PUTTING LOVE ON THE MENU.
Had a bad day? Don't expect your brother to give you a hug, that's Mom's job. You may have come home with a sad face – you lost a basketball game, your crush ignored you, or you had a bad booboo on your knee. Mom would take one look at you and ask what you want to eat so she could prepare it (even though she already cooked dinner).

With all of her great qualities, it's your turn to give something back to this very special woman on Mother's Day. Make mealtime a time to honor her, let her sit back and do everything she did for you. A simple dish, a COKE LITRO, and a lot of love on the table would be enough to make her heart brim with joy. So gather everyone and let family love overflow on the dinner table, to make this Mother's Day mealtime something she will remember.

Make it memorable at the mall

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO MAKE IT A memorable day for Mom at the SM Mall of Asia! Go on a girl's day out by shopping in the mall's stores and restos. And don't miss these special stops fro Mom while having a fun day at the mall.

Surprise her with a lovely bouquet from Holland Tulips. It has a wide variety of imported blooms flown in fresh once a week from Holland, which are complemented by an array of specially made accessories at reasonable prices. Holland Tulips' floral artists are well trained to pay attention to the tiniest detail. They take special care to make sure that every bouquet, basket, or individual flower is fresh and perfectly arranged - just for Mom. Holland Tulips is located at the Ground Floor of the Main Mall.

Indulge her with a box of Leonidas Belgian Chocolates! Leonidas is a world-renowned chocolate maker selling over 100 kinds of Belgian chocolates through 1,400 outlets around the world. Mom will love these luxe chocolates made from 100 percent pure cocoa butter mixed with the finest

Have a lot of girl talk over lunch or dinner in a family style restaurant. The Mall of Asia has over 150 restaurants to choose from, including Burgoo and Fish & Company.

Enjoy a sumptuous treat at Burgoo, an American style casual dining restaurant. Known for its good food, Burgoo has all the essentials of an all-American place - burgers and sandwiches, great meals in huge servings, sumptuous pastas, pizzas, and overloaded with toppings, hearty stews, fresh salads. It's the perfect place for family gatherings with its hot off the grill steaks, juicy barbeques, tasty chicken and seafood grills, and sinfully delicious desserts. The best part is that kids can make their special message for Mom with crayons and brown paper while waiting to be served. Burgoo is located at the Second Floor of the Main Mall Building.

Give mom a healthy treat at Fish & Co. Share its unique menu of fish and seafood that are literally flown from the seven seas. Taking a cue from Mediterranean fishermen, who catch fresh seafood and cook them in a pan, Fish & Co's favorites include mussels, calamari, fish and chips, seafood platters, and specialty menus that can create their own. A must try is the Mother's Day Catch with steak and shrimp for only P995. Each order comes with a special set of beaded cutlery. Fish & Co is located at the South Wing of the Entertainment Mall Building.

Spend a memorable day with Mom at the Mall of Asia!

Shop for mom and let her shine

SHOP FOR THAT SPECIAL token for Mom at the SM Department Store and get a chance to make Mother's Day a truly sparkling day for her!

Every P500 single or accumulated purchase from May 1 to 13, entitles one to a raffle coupon and a chance to win a special diamond solitaire ring set in 18K white gold. There will be one ring raffled off in each SM Department Store branch, to a total of 29 rings.

And if you're still shopping for that perfect gift for Mom, send her your warmest and heartfelt greetings in soft and cuddly pillows with messages of love for Mom. Or say it sweetly with a bouquet of rose shaped chocolates and heart shaped expressions. Pamper her with relaxing bath sets with floral scents... give a stylish lift to her practical side with floral embroidered cosmetic and organizer kits.

Lessons from 'nanay'

From page R1

that she used up some of the capital to buy things needed for the house and settle some personal financial obligations.

I needed to inject fresh capital, which was unplanned, I thought. But I saw nanay was happy with what she was doing. For a dutiful son, I was pleased enough as well.

But there's another thing I like about nanay. She may not have the authority or power of a president, but she's always able to pool resources whenever a family member needs it. She can unite everybody in the family whenever someone needs help. It doesn't take much prodding, though. All she has to do is to say that someone needs help, and voila, there we are!

Besides her slight problems with hearing, I can say that my mother is still in good health at 65. She may be pestered with an occasional cough or cold, but she's always able to recover quickly.

At present, nobody calls her by her first name anymore or that traditional way of addressing our elderly with the word Aling. We, her children, call her nanay. My nephews and nieces, or her grandchildren, also call her nanay. Quite odd, though, because they call my father *lolo* and she should be *lola*. Even her *suki* at her sari-sari store calls her nanay. Maybe there's something in my mother that makes her a nanay to everybody.

There are lots of reasons for nanay to still hold that great an influence over us. Somehow, I feel a big difference when nanay is not in the house.

There are surely lots of life's lessons which I acknowledge I learned from my nanay; lessons I believe now form part of and would surely guide me as I continue my journey in this one and only special trip called life.

> Even her 'suki' at her sari-sari store calls her nanay. Maybe there's something in my mother that makes her a nanay to everybody

Charmee lets mom be cool and fresh all summer long

TRAVEL IS THE WAY TO GO THIS SUMMER. There are so many places to see in the Philippines. From beaches in Palawan, to heritage sites in Ilocos, to restaurants in Manila.

A summer vacation surely gives a mother all the free time to enjoy life. And if you're the type of mom whose always on the go, Charmee Breathable Pantyliners will sure to be very handy which you can take anywhere you go.

Charmee Breathable Pantyliners are so comfortable, because it has cotton covers that provides comfortable protection. It also has breathable backsheets that allow air circulation giving your skin long lasting fresh feeling.

What's more, Charmee Breathable Pantyliners has two variants to choose from, the unscented and the scented in lavender fragrance. The lavender variant is mild and soothing that you can wear all day without having to worry about unpleasant odor.

Plus, the pantyliners are individually wrapped for convenience. So what are you waiting for? Pack Charmee Breathable Pantyliners in your travel bag or kikay kit and feel the difference this summer.

Enjoy your summer mom... Charmee Breathable Pantyliners will keep you cool and fresh anywhere you go!

Treat mom to Mezze

A WORD THAT BEST DESCRIBES Mediterranean cuisine in general is Mezze. Derived in part from the Greek "mezethes" meaning "small plates of tasty morsels," or from the Arabic "mazmiz" which means "to nibble on food". Either way, mezze represents the pleasure of savoring little pieces of food as appetizers or for the whole meal course.

The Mediterranean can be roughly divided into three culinary regions: the North African (including Morroco), the Eastern Mediterranean (Egypt, Greece, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, and Turkey), and the Southern European (Italy, France, Spain).

North African cuisine, which some claim is identical to that of Morroco, uses many varieties of fruits and vegetables. Moroccans relish full-bodied flavors whereas Tunisians savor fiery dishes. Although a broad range of meats is used in the region, the cuisine is known for couscous, which is the separated grain of the wheat plant that is a terrific rice substitute because of its nutty flavor and interesting texture. Couscous is best eaten when steamed with meat and vegetables or with flavorful stews.

Eastern Mediterranean cuisine can be characterized by its use of eggplants or aubergines, lentils, chickpeas, fava beans, yoghurt and pitta bread aside from the usual fresh vegetables and exotic spices prevalent in the region. Stuffed dishes, both of meat and vegetables, are common. As the region is predominantly Muslim, pork is rarely used and lamb is more favored than beef. Flavors vary among the countries but all of them have their desserts rich and sweet.

Now Southern European cuisine is a slightly different matter. Wine and herbs are central and core components of Southern European cooking. If Northern France is known for their butter-based cuisine and the German-influenced East of France uses goose and pork fat in cooking, Southern France, like her neighbors, cooks with olive oil. Herbs like rosemary, thyme, basil, bay laurel, parsley, and sage are commonly used to flavor food than spices which are used in North African cooking. The use of balsamic vinegar is also very prevalent in the region.

Treat mom this Mother's Day to an authentic Southern European mezze cuisine. In Makati, there is only one restaurant that offers such cuisine in an elegant bistro setting laced by live entertainment every night of the week. It's at Greenbelt 2. Sample sumptuous Gambas to Angus Steak renditions. Savor the Chicken Caesar and Arugula flatbreads for their fresh greens with a tangy twist. Nibble on the tasty croquetas while the mood for conversation warms up. Try all-time favorites like the bountiful paellas, the creamy callos and the heavenly cochipollo that melts in your mouth with every crisp bite.

When it comes to Southern European mezze cuisine, there is only Mezze at Greenbelt 2. For reservations and inquiries, please call telephone numbers (632) 728-8895 to 96.

Happy mommy with Dr. P

COME MOTHER'S DAY SHOW YOUR mom how much you care by giving her only the best. Mom has been there for you ever since you were born so why don't you give her back all the love and care she gave you from the very beginning. As you escort her through her maturing years make her feel more secure with Dr. P Adult Diapers. Dr. P Adult Diapers is the only diaper with anti-bacteria action that effectively controls growth of harmful germs neutralizing unpleasant odor. Its high speed channels evenly distribute the liquid maximizing usage of the pad. The Wetness Indicator saves you from the traditional way of touching and peeping to find out if the diaper is full. All these in a super absorbent pad that keeps Mom feel more comfortable all the time. Dr. P Adult Diapers help your mom lead a more active life without worrying about embarrassing situations. Make her feel special and loved this Mother's Day onwards by making her experience the happiness with Dr. P Adult Diapers!

Beka Cookware brings joy this Mother's Day

THIS MONTH OF MAY, BEKA COOKWARE from Germany brings exciting product line-ups and consumer programs to delight moms and other consumers in celebration of Mother's day. Jumpstarting the program is Beka's series of cooking demonstrations which will be held in various malls and stores within Metro Manila. These cooking demos will feature homegrown chefs from the prestigious Center for Culinary Arts (CCA) who will share their most-loved recipes and reveal their trade secrets using selected Beka Cookware. Dona Elena Olive Oil supports these demonstrations with exciting raffle prizes to be given away after the show.

As an added treat, Beka Cookware teams up with another well-known consumer brand to bring good cheer to moms all over as well as other valuable consumers in honor of Mother's Day. For the month of May, a purchase of Beka cookware comes with a Monterey gift certificate which can be used to purchase Monterey meat products in any Monterey Neighborhood Meatshops. These gift certificates are valid until Dec. 31.

Combining a rich heritage with a passion for constant innovation, Beka has consistently delivered high quality stainless steel cookware for generations spanning a hundred years. It is known for supporting family values by continuously coming up with product lines designed to enhance quality of life in the home.

Check out Beka cookware's newest product on the block, The Beka Pressure Cooker Collection. Crafted with 18/10 stainless steel, the Pressure Cooker Collection features a safe opening and pressure indicating system that prevents kitchen accidents. Another unique feature is its inner capacity marks, which serve as a measuring device. What's more, it's suitable for all heat sources including induction and is easy to clean with its smooth surface. Imagine having a tenderized beef casserole ready in a mere 15 minutes! Now kitchen weary moms have more time for a luxurious bath before dinner is served.

Another must-have is the eight-piece Living gift set, which boasts of traditional Beka features such as an extra thick 18/10 stainless steel body, encapsulated sandwich base, which makes its suitable for all heat sources including induction, and stainless steel lids with air vent holes. The set comprises Milk pan, 2 saucepans, casserole and non-stick Fry pan in elegant and modern designs all packed in colorful gift box. All items in Beka gift sets are sold individually as well.

Exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corporation, Beka cookware and gift sets are available in all SM Home World outlets, Rustan Department stores, Landmark and Market Market Department store. For inquiries, call Rustan Marketing Corporation's Home Care Division at 890-9703.

PSBank passbook savings for Super Moms

THEY ARE CALLED SUPER MOMS, MAINLY BECAUSE they seem to have the solution to everything. Motherhood is no easy task, yet somehow they find time to remind us to focus on life's blessings, to give our best at all times and to make sure that we save enough for the future.

Having enough savings is definitely an advantage because one can expect a less-stressful life. With the right resources mothers can assist the people they love. They can enjoy luxuries like embarking on activities they enjoy most and making leisurely trips to exotic places becomes ultimately possible. Financial stability spells security.

Unfortunately along with all the advantages, even mothers have a hard time setting aside cash for the future. And while some may succeed in keeping the cash for a few months, somehow a need arises that forces the saver to give it all up.

Saving money involves self-discipline. This is actually the secret behind an effective savings pattern. The best way for mothers to save is to treat it like paying bills, a financial obligation that has to be fulfilled on a regular basis.

Moms should pick a specific day every month to "set aside" a certain amount. This should be in proportion with the homemaker's monthly budget that covers the daily expenses, bills and other financial responsibilities.

Mothers should try their best to religiously follow their "savings due date". A "make believe" surcharge can be imposed just to reinforce the discipline. By making the monthly payment to this "disguised bill," savings will definitely build-up with an assurance of future prosperity.

To keep the hard-earned cash safe, mothers are advised to open a passbook savings account. A passbook is more advisable than an ATM account since there is lesser temptation to withdraw.

PSBank Passbook Savings account is highly recommended even with the growing popularity of electronic banking. Motivated to ensure that every market segment, especially mothers are provided with the best service, PSBank believes that a passbook account is a partner when it comes to savings, even if other banks phased-out theirs in favor of the ATM account.

PSBank redesigned its passbook to help accountholders keep track of their finances. It's the only passbook available with additional space in case the accountholder wishes to add pertinent details alongside the usual passbook entries.

The utility of the additional column transforms the passbook into a personal financial journal. Details of transactions are recorded so that accountholders can effectively manage the cash flow. The additional column also lessens the cluttered look giving the passbook a more personal appeal.

The PSBank passbook is also recognized in any PSBank branch. Considering a mother's hectic daily schedule they can now enjoy the convenience of withdrawing from any of the 150 outlets nationwide.

PSBank is known nationwide for its customer-friendly procedures. It takes pride in offering simple, easy and efficient bank transactions for all its products. Customer confidence is key and clients can look forward to a brighter future now that a reputable financial institution is protecting their interest.

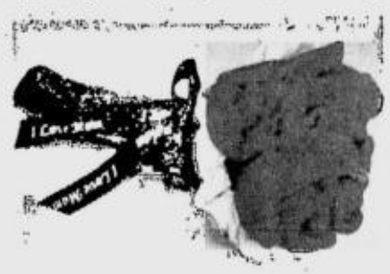
PSBank depositors can access their funds at any of its 150 branches and 152 ATMs nationwide.

Say it with flowers and hugs at Toy Kingdom

KIDS CAN TELL MOM HOW MUCH they love her on Mother's Day by saying it with flowers and hugs from Toy Kingdom.

These are blooms like no other - plush bouquets of red roses, daisies with smiling faces and love messages for Mom. You can create your own arrangement of flowers in different designs, colors and heartfelt messages for Mom. The best part is that these will brighten up any room, and bring smile to Mom long after Mother's Day.

SWEET and huggable heart shaped pillows to greet your Mom on her day.



THIS soft and cuddly rose bouquet will make your mom smile long after Mother's Day.

Velvety heart shaped pillows embroidered with words she's happy to hear is another gift Mom will cherish forever. These are not only huggable and cuddly, bit also give her a lot of comfort during difficult days. Or you can make her day with a cute heart on a stick with ribbon accents - it's something she can put in her room or office to remind her how much you love her.

Make it a special day for Mom with flowers and hugs from Toy Kingdom stores at SM Makati, SM Megamall, SM Cit Fairview, SM Southmall, V-Mall, and the Mall of Asia, as well as TK at the Podium. In provincial areas, these are available at Toy Kingdom stores at the SM Supermalls in Pampanga, Lucena, Marilao, Baguio, Dasmarinas, Bacoor, and Batangas in Luzon; and Cebu, Iloilo, Cagayan De Oro, and Davao in the Vizmin area.

SAY it with flowers! A colorful bouquet embroidered with sweet messages for moms.

Saisaki Buffet Festival celebrates Mother's Day

AROUND THE WORLD, THE SECOND Sunday of May is a special day to show our respect and gratitude to the most important lady in our lives - our mother. We may celebrate in different ways but the sentiment is universal.

A fitting tribute to moms is Saisaki's Niku Buffet festival, featuring beef, chicken, and pork dishes festival in addition to the classic Saisaki buffet favorites. Must taste new sushi delights include Ox tongue, porkloin, ham, salami, corned beef, and the ever versatile hotdog. These sushi variations are easy to prepare and the basic ingredients readily available so moms can always add them to their finger food repertoire. Main dishes to try are Teba Zume Furai, breaded chicken wings fillet, Niku Kushi Yaki, broiled bee cubes, Niku Kabucha, squash beef roll, Niku Usuyaki, Shitake mushroom beef roll and a lot more.

Saisaki Niku Buffet Festival, together with the all new "Grand Inihaw" Kamayan Buffet and the ongoing Dads Asian Buffet make up the Ultimate 3-in-one Dad's Buffet.

Lording it over all the resto and 5-star hotel buffet offerings as the best value for money DADS buffet package is priced at P515 and at P415 during promo days. Saisaki buffet, on the other hand, is priced at P485 and P385 during promo days and Kamayan buffet is at P290. Prices are VAT exclusive. Now available in SM Megamall, Glorietta III, Alabang Towncenter, Edsa, West Avenue and Padre Faura branches.

For info call 636-3785 , 892-8898 or 722-8125.

Mother's Day at Tropezz

NEOCTURNAL BAND FEATURING THE UP and coming singer Zion plays rhythm and blues, pop and soul music on Mother's Day at the Tropezz Resto Bar, Level 2, Greenbelt 3. Open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Mother's Day, Tropezz invites families to partake of the Adobo Linguini, Spaghetti Tropezz and its Honey Chicken at a special price of only P199 for any two of the dishes. Already very affordable, it is Tropezz's way of making all families have a terrific time on Mother's Day.

Tribute to mothers

"NO LIPSTICK FOR MOTHER", FIRST-PRIZE Palanca-award winner in the Short Story for Children Category, pays tribute to mommies. Written in English by Grace D. Chong, author of inspirational books and over 20 books for children, and translated to Filipino by multi-awarded author, Dr. Luis Gatmaitan, the book tells of a growing child's perception of mothers and why, in her young mind, her own mother doesn't fit in the mold. It makes for an interesting read for children of all ages, especially this Mothers' Day. Illustrated by Kora Dandan-Albano, the books are available in all major bookstores all over the country.

It's Mother's Month at Tokyo Tokyo

THIS MOTHER'S MONTH, FROM MAY 1 TO 31, Tokyo Tokyo has something special in store for mothers everywhere with its "Arigato, Ma!" promo. It's our way of saying haha no hi omedetoh! (Happy Mother's Day!) Try any of Tokyo Tokyo's Bestsellers, House Specials, or Sumo Meals and get a limited-edition Mother's Day Greeting Card to tell your mom just how great she really is. And what better way to show her your love than to give her a little something sweet? Simply present the card for a free dessert of your choice. She'll love the lusciously rich taste of Tokyo Tokyo's Chocolate Mousse or the equally tempting, deliciously sweet Strawberry Cream dessert, free with a minimum P150 food purchase. That's not all that's in store for your mom, because on Mother's Day, May 13, Tokyo Tokyo will have a special treat for moms who visit its Glorietta branch. Show up with Mom during lunch (11 a.m. to 2 p.m.) or dinner (6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.) and bond with her over deliciously heart-warming meals amid a fine-dining atmosphere complete with bonsai plants, a Zen garden, and lantern arrangements. She'll surely delight in Tokyo Tokyo's signature foods. So go ahead and say, "Arigato, Ma!" and make this a month your mom won't forget. For inquiries and reservations, please look for Isabel Rondares at 813-7083 or 817-9558.

Thank you for nurturing the gift

Happy Mother's Day!

From the moment you first held your child in your arms, to the time you helped him realize his gift, to the day you cheered him on his big day, you have done what no one could have ever done better.

Promil Kid and Promil Pre-School salute every nurturing mom, and stand firm in our promise to be your partner in bringing out the gift in your child.

Wyeth

Nurture the Gift

Huggies fete Mommy Academy members

HUGGIES, IN COORDINATION WITH Mommy Academy, recently treated over 800 mommies to an early Mothers' Day celebration at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City.

Mommies enjoyed the morning with their babies, toddlers, kids and hubbies. They were able to experience, first hand what fun bonding moments with Huggies is as they sampled and learned about new Huggies baby wash, powder, lotion, cologne and oil-the new line of bath and body products from Kimberly Clark Philippines, that are specially formulated for babies.

Mommy Academy is a weekly TV program that seeks to educate mothers on proper parenting and childcare. A brainchild of Gerry Geronimo Productions Inc, Mommy Academy has spun off into a magazine and a social club comprised of a legion of 100,000+ mothers who take more active roles in raising their kids.

It was Mommy Academy's young/first time mom members who were among the first to try the mild, dermatologist-tested baby products from Huggies, a known global brand in diapers and pants.

"Huggies Bath and Body products have been in the market for a little over a month now and the response from mothers and doctors has been very positive," said Aileen Rodas, business unit director of Baby and Child Care, Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc.

The Huggies baby wash comes in 100ml while baby powder, baby lotion, baby cologne and baby oil are packaged in 50ml or mg and 100 ml or mg bottles. All products come in lavender and chamomile scents, with the wash and lotion also coming in the shea butter scent.

An infectiously festive air filled the grand ballroom of the Dusit Hotel Nikko like a magnificent children's party. There were clowns giving away colorful balloons, magic shows, kids dance numbers and program, giant playgrounds, TV rooms and Huggies bear mascots. All this as popcorn, fries, and cotton candies kept young tummies filled. Mommies and daddies were also satisfied with the baby development information they got from a distinguished pediatrician.

The reception area and portions of the ballroom were transformed into playgrounds for toddlers. A small room had the older kids doing arts and crafts for their Mother's Day cards. While the main section of the venue was jampacked with eager moms and dads who participated both in the discussions and in the games.

"We thank Huggies for sponsoring this informative and fun gathering. The toddlers had fun at the makeshift sand boxes and playgrounds. The older kids enjoyed the magic tricks of Alex the magician, the games, arts and crafts and the dance numbers performed by Groove dancers, and the appearance of the Huggies bears" said Rebecca Calma, one of the moms who attended the event.

Host Suzi Entrata-Abrera, together with entrepreneur Joana Ongpin- Duarte and TV personality Patricia Bermudez-Hizon, shared their first-hand experience on how Huggies Bath and Body products have made their bonding moments with their kids more fun and enjoyable.

Anticipating the need for the toddlers to occasionally change diapers and clothes, stations were set up in the venue where Huggies diapers and the new toiletries were made available.

The parents gained more insights on the Huggies Bath and Body products as Dr. Emelita Lazaro-Leh, Fellow of the Philippine Pediatric Society and pediatric consultant of Medical City and Medico, shared tips on child rearing and the importance of active bonding on early development.

KIDS take charge. Different activity areas placed around the ballroom keep kids busy throughout the whole event.

Moms took advantage of the open forum to ask Dr. Leh and the Huggies executives questions related to their babies' healthy and hygiene concerns as well as more information on the new products. Among the interesting answers given were the versatility of the Huggies body wash as a body wash and shampoo; the long-lasting fragrance of all Huggies Bath and Body products, especially Huggies baby cologne; the low dusting properties of Huggies baby powder which makes it safe to apply even on toddlers and kids with asthma. Dr. Leh also pointed out that since the Huggies powder has zinc oxide, it is suitable to use on the butt area to help absorb urine and prevent rashes.

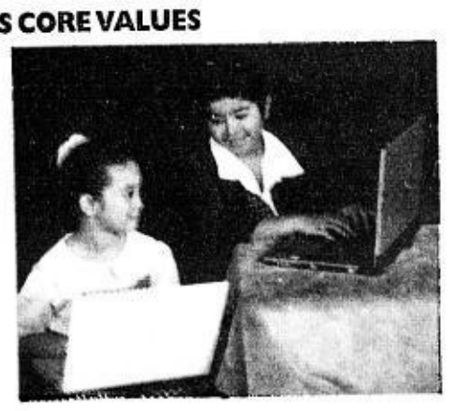
"Our products were developed with both the needs and practices of babies and their moms in mind. We believe that active bonding moments are important for child development. And with the Huggies Bath and Body products, clean-up time will definitely be more fun and pleasant," said Rodas.

"We are happy to partner with Huggies Bath and Body for this event because we both aim to give only the best to moms and babies and continue to pursue our advocacy on empowering moms with baby care information," said Mommy Academy executive producer Tesa Valmonte-Geronimo.

Huggies is set to hold another family day celebration at the Fun Ranch in Tiendisitas on May 26. The fun begins at 4 p.m. Free rides, food and fun for babies and kids. This is part of the campaign to make more consumers experience the fun bonding with new Huggies Bath and Body line.

SALUTE THE SPIRIT OF MOTHERHOOD VIA GLOBAL KIDS CORE VALUES

Here is great news for Mom's this 'Mother's Day'. A 'School Without Boarders' has been launched by Eton International Primary School at 1839 Dr. Vasquez St., Malate, Manila by pioneering education specialist --- Dr. Jacquelin Marzan-Tolentino, M.E., Ph.D., whose dedicated program for children utilizes a unique system-learning style towards global education at a preschool level. Envisioned to ensure children's 'Three (3) Absolutes, namely --- Absolute Learning, Absolute Adventure and Absolute Future.' Eton's very Core Values in fact center's on the word Faith --- in one's self, in others, in the family, and most importantly – in the Supreme being, Dr. Tolentino emphasized. Various testimonials from mother's here in the Philippines and abroad confirms the reality of Eton's evolutionary learning program for children of pre-school age. Both Tina Constantino and Joan Parsons, have written testimonials. Becoming a common denominator, describing Eton's unique learning methodology that helped develop their children's comprehension, vocabulary, writing skills, computer skills and the ability to follow rules, plus the fact that its faculty and staff are able to nurture their kids excitement and huger to learn/experience new things, providing them a well-rounded and excellent education. Free orientation program is given to parents via www.etonph.com and details through telephone number 526-2994 and 95 or visit them at the 3rd Floor, Robinson's Place Manila.



Honoring the Queen

DESPITE PILES OF DIRTY LAUNDRY AND kids with runny noses, to be a mother is a most wonderful blessing. And what better way to show our gratitude to her than to regard her like the queen of the home that she truly is. Treat her like royalty – on Mother's Day and every day – with these suggestions:

Rediscover mom's interests

Dad can help recall mommy's passion before she became a full-time mother. The brood can gift her with a book that celebrates these interests; a book is a good idea since it allows mom precious time for herself. It could be a culinary book, a suspense paperback, a photography title, a book on tennis, a manual for setting up a business, a reading on spirituality, and so on.

A basket for the queen

Prepare gift baskets for mama. You can go by theme: a bathroom mini-showcase with gifts like sea salt, milk soap, and loofah. Or you can be eclectic and put anything that you think will catch her fancy: a kit for making candles at home, a small pillow for her tired neck, a gift certificate in a nail spa, and the discounted blouse that she spotted in the mall last weekend. You can even assign a gift basket per member of the family: dad's basket for mom can include a ticket that reads "breakfast in bed for one week", or "free 30-minute massage every night after work". If she's active, get her a basket filled with equipment for her favourite sport. The possibilities are endless!

Get creative

Handmade presents are always heartwarming to receive. Think hand-sewn bags and beaded accessories like necklaces and belts. Or you can gather pictures old and recent, and make a slideshow or video presentation celebrating her motherhood and how much the family values her love.

Music and meals

Dad and the kids can take turns serenading mom with a medley of her favorite ditties while she enjoys delicious Roast Beef Pasta, prepared by her loved ones, of course. This dish is made with sukiyaki-cut Monterey beef in gravy sauce with fettuccine noodles. You can check out www.mygreatfood.com for the recipe of Roast Beef Pasta and for other great food ideas.

San Miguel Culinary Center honors moms on their special day. Frazzled mommies when deciding what to cook for the family may find delicious suggestions by browsing through www.mygreatfood.com. What's more, they can attend cooking shows and regular classes to help them serve their families great meals. Busy mothers could learn know about other San Miguel products at the same time, enjoy the convenience provided by Monterey Meatshop outlets as it evolved into one-stop shops that now sell not only fresh pork and beef, but also complementary products like vegetables and dairy food.

To the queen of the home, long live and Happy Mother's Day!

Being a mom is the best job in the world – and also the most fraught with worries.
AXA understands a mom's need to take care of her family even long after she's gone, and has just the plan she needs.
For details, visit www.axa.com.ph or any Metrobank or AXA agency branch near you, or call (02) 5815-AXA (292).

AXA LIFE INSURANCE & INVESTMENTS
A member of the METROBANK GROUP
Be Life Confident

Moms to the rescue

MOTHERS CAN BE HARD TO PLEASE. THEY would willingly spend thousands to provide their kids with only the best of things. Besides, why settle for less knowing that children are the worthiest investments parents can ever have?

Just ask Emily Yanga-Balajadia who has gone to the extent of buying baby products abroad since none of the better ones are available locally. "In the States, there are a lot of baby laundry detergents and I used to buy and bring them home," she says. "Both of my kids have specific concerns. They have eczema and are sensitive when it comes to certain food and lotion. One time they got red blotches on their skin because of the detergent I used to clean their clothes. Apparently, the brand which claims to be the mildest seems not suited for my babies." When it comes to her girls Erika, 3, and Apple Lyn, 17 months, Emily doesn't take any chances, especially at the tender stages they are in.

Natasha Ventura-Reyes shares the same sentiment. Her baby of 11 months has entopic dermatitis preventing her to use any product that contains harsh ingredients. "I have to stick to something recommended by my pediatrician. There was a time I used a local bar soap. Everyone suggested it since it is known to be banayad and mild. It did its job but on the downside, it ate up a lot of my maid's time. Instead of taking care of my baby Eva, the maid ended up spending most of the time washing the clothes."

Like any protective parent, both of these working moms demand for what's best and beneficial for the health and wellness of their babies. And noticing the need for reliable baby products in the market has prompted them to form EVEolution Inc, a company which manufactures brands streamlined towards child rearing and all its aspects. Together with single mother Denise Javier, the three-woman group promises a product line that will have mothers worrying no more.

Their very first product, Cycles, a mild laundry powder and liquid detergent, has already gotten good word among young mothers. "What's great about Cycles is that it's specifically targeted for babies," says Natasha. "Meaning it does not contain ingredients such as phosphates, dyes, optical brighteners, enzymes, bleach and fabric softeners that may cause skin irritation or allergies. It will not only wash your baby's clothes and rid them of germs but also protect and care for your baby's sensitive skin." Denise who cares for her 3-year-old son Johann adds, "It does the job of cleaning but baby detergents should do more than that. Cycles is milder than your regular soap, saves time and is cheaper than another attack of allergies."

As passionate mothers themselves, the women behind the months-old company make sure that their products have all bases covered. "We know the ingredients that are bad for our kids that is why we always check what we give them. EVEolution is composed of moms and so mothers out there can be assured of the quality. The needs of our babies are always at the forefront of our products, considering that our kids are the extension of ourselves," says Emily who stands as the company's chief branding officer.

Emily, Natasha and Denise talk and operate based on their own experiences as mothers. And that alone should keep mothers at ease knowing that, with the EVEolution line, they are in good hands.

Cycles baby detergent is now available at Rustan's Supermarket,Rustan's Department Stores, Babyland and Shopwise.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

NATIONAL

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SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2007 S1

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
5/F DENR Bldg., Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Telefax Nos. +632 926 6449; 926 5234

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Republic of the Philippines
Construction and Development of Napindan Ferry Station

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission *(PRRC)*, through the Peso Counterpart Fund of the Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program (PAREMAR) under the General Appropriation Act of 2007 (*GAA) R.A. 949* intends to apply the sum of Nineteen Million Eighty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Eight and 40/100 (19,084,738.40) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the Contract for the Construction and Development of Napindan Ferry Station (EPA-LPP-050) in Brgy. Napindan, Taguig City. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *PRRC* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the following contract package:

Contract Package	Construction and Development of Napindan Ferry Station in Brgy. Napindan, Taguig City
Contract No.	EPA-LPP-050
Location	Barangay Napindan, Taguig City
Contract Duration	150 Calendar Days
Project Description	Construction and Development of Ferry Station, which include the following items of work: Site Development Works, Earthworks, Civil Works, Steel Works, Roofing Works, Ceiling Works, Architectural Works, Sanitary / Plumbing Works, Electrical Works, Pontoon Works and Geotechnical Survey.

The PRRC now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the Construction and Development of Napindan Ferry Station. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before May 16, 2007 at PRRC Office and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A 9184, a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *PRRC* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.:*

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
Deputy Executive Director, Atty. Zoilo L. Andin, Jr.
5F DENR Main Building, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City

The schedule of Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission – Inter-Agency Bid and Award Committee (PRRC-IABAC) procurement activities is as follows:

Activity	Date	Time	Venue
Securing of (a) Eligibility Checklist or (b) submission of Letter of Intent and purchase of complete set of Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 15,000.00	From May 7 to May 17, 2007	From 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	PRRC, 5F DENR Main Building, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City Deadline for Submission of LOI is on May 16, 2007 at 3:00 P.M.
Securing of additional eligibility information (if any) and inspection of Bidding Documents	From May 7. to May 17, 2007	From 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	
Site Inspection	May 18, 2007	10:00 a.m.	Brgy. Napindan, Taguig City
Pre-Bid Conference	May 18, 2007	2:00 p.m.	PRRC Conference Room, 5F DENR Main Building, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City
Deadline for submission of Bids	June 4, 2007	10:00 a.m.	PRRC Conference Room, 5F DENR Main Building, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City
Opening of Bids	June 4, 2007	10:30 a.m.	PRRC Conference Room, 5F DENR Main Building, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City

The method of payment will be by Progress Billing. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount stated in the Bid Data Sheet (BDS) or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) and the City of Taguig shall be the implementing agencies of the Project.

The *PRRC-IABAC* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
Deputy Executive Director, Atty. Zoilo L. Andin, Jr.
5F DENR Main Bldg., Visayas Ave., Quezon City
Tel. No. 929-6626 loc. 2236 / 2239 ; 926-6449
Fax. 926-5233 / 926-6449

(Sgd.) ATTY. ZOILO L. ANDIN, JR.
BAC Chairperson

NOTE: This supercedes the Advertisement last May 6, 2007. However, Bidders who have submitted already their LOIs need not submit the same. They will automatically be considered as one of our prospective Bidders for said project.

(PDI – May 13, 2007)

SPECIAL DISCOUNTED SALE

HOTEL, BUILDINGS, HOUSES & LOTS ON CASH OR INSTALLMENT FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY

Newly Renovated Hotel
14 Storeys with 350 rooms,
new furniture & fixtures ready for operation
LA: 7,375.65 square meters
FA: 30,850.11 square meters

7 Units Six-Storey Commercial Bldg.
LA: 43 sq.m. to 235 square meters
FA: 256 sq.m. to 1,400 square meters
Units 1-B-2-A to 1-B-2-G,
Plaza Lacson, Sta Cruz

Newspaper & Magazine Printing Facilities with Building/ Office/ Warehouse
LA: 5,000 square meters
FA: 3,947.94 square meters
Pasong Tamo
P 750,000,000.00

Lot with Warehouse
LA: 5,171 square meters
FA: 1,540 square meters
Pasong Tamo St. between Pasay Road & EDSA
P 439,535,000.00

Lot with Warehouse
LA: 41,039 square meters
Along Capeda Street
P 430,909,500.00

Marina Lots (Asiaworld)
LA: 7,000 square meters to 29,000 square meters
Tambo
P 25,000.00/ sq.m.

Vacant Lots Overlooking Taal Lake
LA: 100,000 – 500,000 square meters
Tagaytay – Calamba Road (near Rotonda)
P 1,500.00/sq.m.

MANILA

Residential Condo Unit
FA: 108.64 square meters
3 BR; 3 T&B; living-dining area; kitchen; maid's room; patio
Unit 411, 4th Floor, Building D, Landwealth Metrohomes, No.1995 Juan Luna St., Pritil, Tondo
P 2,950,000.00

MANILA

Residential Condo Unit
FA: 282 square meters
3 BR; 3 T&B; maid's room
Unit 1801 (Penthouse), Marbella II Manila Condominium, No.2071 Roxas Blvd., Malate
P15,510,000.00

Residential Condo Unit
FA: 290 square meters
2 BR; 3 T&B; maid's room
Unit 1802 (Penthouse), Marbella II Manila Condominium, No.2071 Roxas Blvd., Malate
P15,950,000.00

Residential Condo Units
FA: 584.81 square meters
5 BR; 5 T&B; 2 living rooms; office; dining room; kitchen; 3 storage; 8 balconies ; 1 parking slot
Units 22 E, F & G, 22/F Legaspi Towers 300, No.2600 Roxas Blvd. corner Vito Cruz, Malate
P29,240,500.00

Residential Condo Unit
FA: 124.32 square meters
Living/dining area; 2 BR; 2 T&B; kitchen; maid's quarters; laundry area; patio
Unit 408, 4th Floor, Binondo Plaza, Alvarado St., Binondo
P 4,500,000.00

Residential Condo Unit
FA: 159.28 square meters
3 BR; 3 T&B; maid's quarters; living room; dining room; kitchen; utility service area
Unit 1401, 14th Floor, Stanford Tower Condominium, M.H.del Pilar Street, Malate
P 6,500,000.00

Residential Suite
FA: 145 square meters
26-A, 26/F Marina Square, M.H. del Pilar corner
Pedro Gil Sts., Malate
P 9,000,000.00

Residential Suite
FA: 68 square meters
1 BR; 1 T&B
26-B 26/F Marina Square, M.H. del Pilar corner
Pedro Gil Sts., Malate
P 4,500,000.00

MANILA

Two-Storey Townhouse Unit
LA: 277.50 square meters
FA: 400 square meters
4 BR; 4 T&B; 2 dining rooms; maid's quarters; 2 kitchens; carport
No.948 Aliw-iw St. cor. Saluysoy St., Morning Side Terrace, Sta. Mesa
P 6,885,000.00

4 Two-Storey Townhouse Units
From LA: 61.90 square meters to 126.60 square meters
From FA: 100 square meters to 185 square meters
2 BR; 3 T&B; kitchen; living room; carport
No.948 Aliw-iw St. cor. Saluysoy St., Morning Side Terrace, Sta. Mesa
P 2,966,400.00 to P 5,278,500.00

QUEZON CITY

Two- Storey Res. House
LA: 654.70 square meters
FA: 556 square meters
3 BR w/ T&B; maid's quarters; terrace; carport; swimming pool
No.06 Hillside Loop Street, Blue Ridge A Subd.
P 11,250,000.00

Two- Storey Res. House
LA: 360 square meters
FA: 457.83 square meters
6 BR; game room; servant's quarters; covered garage; music room; library; swimming pool
No.55 Sampaguita Ave., Mapayapa Village II, Diliman
P 5,000,000.00

One- Storey Res. House
LA: 360 square meters
FA: 132 square meters
2 BR; 2 T&B
Lot 5 Blk 18 Molave St. cor. Mahogany St., Greenfields I Subd., Novaliches
P 4,050,000.00

Vacant Lot
LA: 1,415 square meters
No.32 Marinduque Street,
San Francisco del Monte
P15,930,000.00

Three- Storey Res./Office/Warehouse Bldg.
LA:655 square meters
FA:1,364.85 square meters
Office; dining area; kitchen; living room; 6 T&B; 4 BR; family room; stock room; sewing area; hallway
(Unnumbered) Aramis Street, Villa Corina Subdivision, Brgy. Pasong Tamo, Tandang Sora
P 13,500,000.00

One- Storey w/ Mezzanine Factory Building
LA: 600 square meters
FA: 790 square meters
Office; 2 T&B; stock rooms; employee's quarters,,working area
No.17 Zorra Street, Bgy. Paltok, San Francisco del Monte
P 10,800,000.00

PARAÑAQUE

Residential Condo Unit
FA: 331.35 square meters 4 BR; 1 parking slot
Unit 2B, Cleveland Tower, Asiaworld Complex, Tambo
P 15,957,180.00

Residential Condo Unit
FA: 341.59 square meters 4 BR; 1 parking slot
Unit 2C, Cleveland Tower, Asiaworld Complex, Tambo
P 16,436,412.00

Residential Condo Unit
FA: 360.71 square meters 4 BR; 1 parking slot
Unit 3B, Cleveland Tower, Asiaworld Complex, Tambo
P 17,655,867.00

Three- Storey Res. House
LA: 198 square meters
FA: 630 square meters
3 BR; 6 T&B; 2 kitchens; 2 balconies; maid's quarters
No.2538 Lt. Garcia St., Baclaran
P 7,650,000.00

Three- Storey Res. Mansion
LA: 1,822 square meters
FA: 2,311 square meters
8 BR; 9 T&B; driver's & maid's quarters; other rooms; swimming pool; balcony etc.
No.27 Topaz Street, Parañaque Greenheights Subd.
P 25,200,000.00

Residential Lot
LA: 365 square meters
Lot 5 Blk 14 Aldrin Street, Moonwalk Village, Phase I, Bgy.Moonwalk (Bgy. Ibayo)
P 1,800,000.00

PASAY

Four-Storey Res. Apartment Bldg.
LA: 285 sq.m. FA: 1,120 sq.m.
17 rooms/studio type units with living/ dining area, kitchen, T&B
No.1926 Sandejas Street, Bgy.044, Zone 6, San Isidro
P 8,000,000.00

Three-Storey Commercial/Residential Building
LA: 200 square meters
FA: 550 square meters
2 BR; living room; dining room; kitchen; T&B; swimming pool
No.524 T. Inocencio Street, San Roque District
P7,472,520.00

CALOOCAN

Residential Lot
LA: 312.50 square meters
Lot 7 Blk 6 Road Lot 5, Sacred Heart Village, Phase VI-B, Novaliches
P 1,350,000.00

Residential Lot
LA: 312.50 square meters
Lot 9 Blk 6 Road Lot 5, Sacred Heart Village, Phase VI-B, Novaliches
P 1,350,000.00

Residential Lot
LA: 312.50 square meters
Lot 5 Blk 6 Road Lot 5, Sacred Heart Village, Phase VI-B, Novaliches
P 1,350,000.00

Residential Lot
LA: 312.50 square meters
Lot 11 Blk 6 Road Lot 5, Sacred Heart Village, Phase VI-B, Novaliches
P 1,350,000.00

Residential Lot
LA: 312.50 square meters
Lot 13 Blk 6 Road Lot 5, Sacred Heart Village, Phase VI-B, Novaliches
P 1,350,000.00

Commercial Lot
LA: 279.60 square meters
Samson Road, Caloocan City (near Bonifacio Monument)
P 13,500,000.00

PASIG

Two- Storey Res. House
LA: 120 square meters
FA: 126.70 square meters
Living/dining area; 1 T&B; 2 BR; kitchen; carport
No.03 Interior, Elizco Road, Bgry.Kalawaan
P 1,620,000.00

Residential Condominium Unit
FA: 198.75 square meters Living/dining rooms; kitchen; 3 BR; 4 T&B; small balcony; maid's quarters; 1 parking slot
Unit NE-R-61, 6th Floor, Gold Loop Towers Condominium Building, No.07 Amber Ave., Ortigas Complex
P 6,300,000.00

Residential Condominium Unit
FA: 198.75 square meters Office; dining room; kitchen; 3 BR; 4 T&B; small balcony; maid's quarters; 1 parking slot
Unit NE-R-62, 6th Floor, Gold Loop Towers Condominium Building, No.07 Amber Ave., Ortigas Complex
P 6,300,000.00

BARAS, RIZAL

Residential Lot
LA: 4,502 square meters
Brgy. Evangelista, Baras
P 2,880,000.00

SAN MATEO, RIZAL

Residential Lots
LA: 336/ 240/ 258 square meters
Lot 4 Blk 4 Valley View Drive, Monterey Hills Subd.
P 1,530,000.00

CAINTA, RIZAL

Two- Storey Res. House
LA: 141 square meters
FA: 195 square meters
3 BR; 2 T&B; 2 kitchens; storage room; maid's quarters; garage
No.56-A Tulip Street, Greenwoods Exec. Village,
Phase II, Brgy. San Andres,
P 4,500,000.00

One- Storey Res. House
LA: 325 square meters
FA: 290 square meters
5 BR; 5 T&B; 2 kitchens; covered garage; terrace
No.07 Doña Juliana St., Phase II, Filinvest Homes East
P 3,600,000.00

ANTIPOLO, RIZAL

Residential Lot
LA: 592 square meters
Lot 7 Blk 5, Road Lot 5, Antipolo Greenheights Subd., Taktak Road, Bgy. Sta. Cruz
P 1,500,000.00

Residential Lot
LA: 150 square meters
Lot 10 Blk 5 Brixton Hill Street, Summer Hills Executive Village, Phase I, Olalia Road, Bgy. dela Paz
P525,000.00

Residential Lots
LA: 850 square meters
Lot Nos.13 & 14 Blk 12, 4th Street, Cavaliers Village, Sumulong Highway, Bgy. Sta. Cruz
P2,000,000.00

Residential Lot
LA: 828 square meters
Lot 28 Blk 1 Saddle Square St., Ponderosa Heights
P 1,125,000.00

One- Storey Res. House
LA: 1,582 square meters
FA: 140 square meters
2 BR; dining/kitchen; 2 T&B
Lot 6-B Bgy. Road, Grand Heights Subd.,
Circumferential Road, Bgy. San Roque, Malinta
P 4,500,000.00

Residential Lot
LA: 566 square meters
Lot 10 Blk 5, Road Lot 5, Antipolo Greenheights Subd., Taktak Road, Bgy. Sta. Cruz
P 750,000.00

MUNTINLUPA

One- Storey Res. House
LA: 300 square meters
No.13 Soliven-Alvendia Ave., South Greenheights Subd.
P 1,755,000.00

Two- Storey Res. House
LA: 590 square meters
FA: 780 square meters
5 BR w/ T&B; jacuzzi; stock room; maid's quarters; carport
No.16 Balisin St., Tierra Nueva Village, Alabang
P 16,200,000.00

One- Storey Res. House
LA: 350 square meters
FA: 188 square meters
2 BR; 3 T&B; terrace; office; covered garage
No.09 Lumbang St., Tierra Nueva Village, Alabang
P 8,100,000.00

MANDALUYONG

One- Storey Res. House
LA: 1,099 square meters
FA: 610 square meters
5 BR; 5 T&B; 2 dining kitchens; sala/ game room; servant's & driver's quarters; bodega
No.560 Holy Cross Street, East Greenhills, Bgy. Wack-wack
P40,500,000.00

VALENZUELA

Industrial Lot
LA: 4,391 square meters
No.12 IRC Compound Road, Canumay
P 20,700,000.00

Two- Storey Res. House
LA: 240 square meters
FA: 250 square meters
4 BR; 3 T&B; maid's quarters
No 019 Taruk St., Oreta Subd., Malinta
P 1,980,000.00

MALABON

Two- Storey Res. House
LA: 705 square meters
FA: 700 square meters
7 BR; 4 T&B; servant's quarters
No.14 M.H. del Pilar Street, San Vicente Village, Maysilo
P 4,500,000.00

LAS PIÑAS

One- Storey Res. House
LA: 628 square meters
FA: 545 square meters
2 living rooms; 1 game room; 1 mini bar; 2 dining; 1 kitchen; 3 BR; 3-car garage
No.12 Mallaca St., BF Homes International (BFTHAI), Brgy. International Village
P 5,850,000.00

Residential Lot
LA: 149 square meters
CRM Avenue, BF Almanza
P 975,000.00

Residential Lot
LA: 289 square meters
CRM Avenue, BF Almanza
P 1,878,500.00

Residential Lot
LA: 419 square meters
CRM Avenue, BF Almanza
P 2,723,500.00

PROVINCES:

CEBU

Commercial/ Industrial Lots
Ten (10) Vacant Lots
LA: 9,310 square meters
F. Cabahug Ext., Brgy. Banilad, Mandaue City
P 72,000,000.00

TAGAYTAY

45 Vacant Res. Lots
LA: 910 square meters to 2,000 square meters
Rodeo Countryside Estate Subd., Brgy.Esperanza, Alfonso, Cavite

CAVITE

Residential Lot
LA: 2,430 square meters
(Unnumbered) Aguinaldo Highway bet. Km. Posts 50 & 51, Bgy. Lalaan II, Silang
P 7,500,000.00

ORIENTAL MINDORO

Vacant Lot
LA: 265 square meters
Bo.San Juan, San Isidro, Victoria
P79,500.00

24 Vacant Lots
LA: 240 square meters each
Bo.San Juan, San Isidro, Victoria
P72,000.00/ lot

Vacant Lot
LA: 315 square meters
Bo. San Isidro, Victoria
P94,500.00

Vacant Lots
LA: 300-465 square meters
Bgy. Malayas-Malinao, Victoria
P300.00/sq.m.

BAGUIO CITY

Residential Lot
LA: 157 sq.m.
Lot 1 Blk 4 Lexber Drive 2 corner Lexber Drive 1, Lexber Heights Subdivision, Phase 4
P654,925.50

Residential Lot
LA: 129 sq.m.
Lot 2 Blk 4 Lexber Drive 2 corner Lexber Drive 1, Lexber Heights Subdivision, Phase 4
P538,123.50

Residential Lot
LA: 160 sq.m.
Lot 3 Blk 4 Lexber Drive 2 corner Lexber Drive 1, Lexber Heights Subdivision, Phase 4
P593,280.00

Residential Lot
LA: 160 sq.m.
Lot 4 Blk 4 Lexber Drive 2 corner Lexber Drive 1, Lexber Heights Subdivision, Phase 4
P593,280.00

Residential Lot
LA: 242 sq.m.
Lot 18 Blk 2 Lexber Drive 2 & Lexber Drive 1, Lexber Heights Subdivision, Phase 4
P897,336.00

Two- Storey w/ Attic Res. Townhouse
LA/FA: 112.312 square meters 4 BR; 2 T&B
Unit No.AT-A1, Amvil Court Townhomes, Marcos Highway
P 2,250,000.00

BULACAN

Residential Lots
LA: 1,689 square meters
(Unnumbered) Dies/ Estranio St. Interior, Brgy. Bayugo, Meycauayan
P 3,150,000.00

Two- Storey Res. House With Attic
LA: 882 square meters FA: 425 square meters Living/dining area; office; 2 kitchens; 4 BR; 3 T&B; terrace; storage room; garage
(Unnumbered)Doña Joselina Road, Doña Joselina Subd., Malhakan Nat'l. Road, Brgy. Malhakan, Meycauayan
P 6,300,000.00

Residential Lots
LA: 792 square meters to 51,103 square meters
Brgy. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte
P 500.00/sq.m.

3 Bldgs.
LA: 1,035 square meters (2) 2-storey & (1) 1-storey
Tierra Dayao Subd., Sta. Cruz, Guiguinto
P 7,650,000.00

OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

Vacant Lot
LA: 29,932 square meters
(Unnumbered) Interior, Bgy.San Roque II, San Jose
P19,045,732.00

LAGUNA

Residential Lot
LA: 33,619 square meters
(Unnumbered) Bgy. Road, Bgy. Caingin, Sta. Rosa
P 25,000,000.00

DAVAO CITY

Vacant Lot
LA: 1,957 square meters
Bo. Baliok, Talomo
P546,930.00

BATAAN

Vacant Lot
LA: 1,000 square meters
Balong Anito, Mariveles
P324,450.00

Vacant Lot
LA: 10,000 square meters
Bo.Anahaw, Limay,
P2,196,990.00

Vacant Lot
LA: 1,503 square meters
Bo. Kitang II, Limay
P1,114,624.80

Vacant Lot
LA: 13,985 square meters
Port View Village, Kamayan Point Road (Alas-asin Road), Mariveles
P10,169,892.00

Vacant Lot
LA: 438 square meters
Bo. Tundol, Limay
P324,820.80

Vacant Lot
LA: 11,332 square meters
Bo. Alas-asin, Cabcaben, Mariveles
P6,241,665.60

Interested Parties Please Contact Telephone Nos. 525-12-68 / 524-90-21 Telefax Nos. 525-12-68 / 525-13-08 Or send your offer with your telephone & fax nos. and full address to P.O. Box 4579 Central Post Office, Manila

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Accountant for travel agency
Reservations staff with experience for travel agency
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1 COORDINATOR
- Know how to speak Korean language
- 40-50 years old
- Fluent in English
- With ability to get along with all types of people

Qualified applicant may apply personally to
KT Global Subic Inc.
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Subic Bay Freep ort Zone

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
Notice is hereby given to the public that the following Official Receipts of RFM Corporation are missing: OR no. 51710, 51711, 51712, 51713, 55341, 55342. Any transaction using these series of Official Receipts shall not be honored by RFM Corporation.
(PDI – May 13, 2007)

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS **NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that **PANGEA GREEN ENERGY PHILIPPINES INC.** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New Operator of Power Generation - Waste to Energy Conversion (Payatas Disposal Facility) under Energy** with project/plant site located at Brgy. Payatas, Quezon City

Any person with valid objections on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department
(PDI– May 13, 2007)

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2.5 HP – P 30,000.00	2.0 HP – P14,999.00
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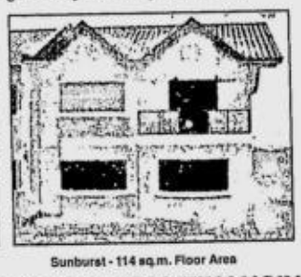

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AUCTION SALE

Marilao-Filipinas Pawnshop, M & R Bldg., Tabing-Ilog Marilao, Bulacan. All Unredeemed Pledges of NOV 2006 willl be Auctioned on MAY 26 8:00am.Lanuza & Sons Auctioneer.
(PDI- MAY 13, 2007)

Meycauayan-Filipinas Pawnshop,Allw Complex, Calvario,Meyc.Bulacan. All Unredeemed Pledges of NOVEMBER 2006 willl be Auctioned on MAY 26, 10:00am.Lanuza & Sons Auctioneer.(PDI- MAY 13, 2007)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late BIENVENIDO GARCIA and the late MAYORICO H. SANDICO covered by TCT #89791-R-Mexico, Pamp. was extrajudicially settled by their heirs as per Doc # 2 Page 1 Book I Series 2007. Before Notary Public Atty Fernando F. Colom of Quezon City.
(PDI - May 6, 13 & 20, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late PEDRO L. LATORENA who died inestate on May 10, 1995 left a parcel of land covered bi TCT No.153032 has been extrajudicially settled among heirs per Doc#427 Page#185 Book#V Series of 2007 before Notary Public Rolando B. Miranda of Pinalsphan, Batasa
(PDI-May 13, 20 & 27, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late NENITA DE VENECIA CIRINEO SOBERANO has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. No. 10307, Series of 2006 before Consul Millicent Cruz-Paredes, New York, USA.
(PDI-April 29, May 6 & 13, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of ANTONIO P. RAMOS was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No. 9; Page No. 3; Book No. 1; Series of 2006 before Notary Public Sixto P. Soriano Jr
(PDI-Apr 29, May 6&13,2007)

NOTICE OF LOSS

ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB STOCK CERT#8708 ISSUED TO GODOFREDO R. GALINDEZ JR. IF NO CONTEST RECEIVED NEW CERT. WILL BE ISSUED (PDI Apr.29, May 6,13,2007)

Notice is hereby given that Zuelig Pharma O.R# 481201K-481203K issued to May Flores; 588501k-588504k issued to Ferdinand Minoc;733851J-733900J issued to Arleen Manjares;655750J-655800J issued to Lellanie Ramos ;400951-41000 issued to Erna Peregrina. If found pls call 8191561.
PDI(Apr 29 May6&13'07)

Notice is hereby given that the ACR# F0000009087 (Alliance Certificate Registration) of Mr. Agustinus Agus Suwondo has been lost. If found, please return to Resurrection Parish, Bagong Silang Phase 10 A Package 2 , Caloocan City or you may call 0906-3776837.
(PDI May 13 & 20, 2007)

Philam Fund Inc. original Stock Certificate No. 2313 (3,415 shares) in favor of Portia L. Heredia

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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The South Cotabato II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SOCOTECO II) is inviting all interested bidders to Pre-qualify and to Bid for the following:

1. STEEL POLE - 25' (25FT.), 30' (30FT.), 35' (35FT), 40' (40FT.)

SPECIFICATION OF STEEL POLE

Height (FT.)	Thickness (MM.)	Butt Diameter (MM.)	Tip Diameter (MM.)	Design Load (KG.)	Yield Stress (MPA)	Zinc Coating (MICRONS)
25	2.50	152	120	300	345	86
30	3.00	226	127	500	345	86
35	3.00	248	127	500	345	86
40	3.00	317	127	500	345	86

2. LINE FAULT INDICATOR
(To indicate Line Fault for Feeder)
3. Metering Point Fabrication with complete accessories
4. SCADA - 1 SET
SPECIFICATIONS
Supply of all devices, equipment, accessories, hardware and software for the SCADA/AUTOMATION Scheme initially for four (4) Substation and provision for possible integration of other substation in the Future.
To provide solutions on integrating all existing SCADA ready devices such as reclosers and relays; communication links, training of personnel, maintenance support and will be responsible for the project implementation and supervison until the system is fully functional.
5. SWITCHGEAR ASSEMBLY
SPECIFICATIONS FOR SWITCHGEAR ASSEMBLY
Supply of 2 sets of 15KV Switchgear Assembly, conpact Type 60Hz with 4 x 1,200 Amp. Vacuum Circuit Breaker/Set, Compre Microprocessor based Protection Relays with Universal Communication Protocol (DNP 3.0, Modbus) of US or European Manufacturer.
Including the Supply of the XLPE cables, terminal connectors, termination kits, control house renovation, labor on mounting and installation, personnel training on tending, maintenance and troubleshooting and other necessary accessories.
(NOTE): Existing 2 x 20 mva at different locations with Automatic Circuit Reclosers as Feeder protection.)

To be qualified Bidder must have fully complied with the following:
Accreditation Requirements
A. Company Profile
B. Business Registration
C. Bir/Vat Certificate of Registration
D. Business Permit
E. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
F. List of Clients for a period of three (3) years

SUBMISSION TO THE ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE
Bid and Award Chairperson - VIRGILIO B. OCTAVIO

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF REQUIREMENTS - MAY 22, 2007

(Sgd.) VIRGILIO B. OCTAVIO
BAC CHAIRPERSON

Noted by:
(Sgd.) Engr. Rodolfo G. Ocat
General Manager

SOUTH COTABATO II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
JOSE CATOLICO SR. AVE., LAGAO, GEN. SANTOS CITY
TEL. NO. 552-4313, 552-4271; FAX NO. 552-4856;
E-MAIL: http: II Socoteco 2.com/index.php

(PDI--May 12 & 13, 2007)

PAMPANGA I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
STO. DOMINGO, MEXICO, PAMPANGA
Tel. Nos. (045)966-0604 / 875-0552
Fax. No. (045) 966-0270
E-mail: pelco1_mexico72@yahoo.com

May 11, 2007

INVITATION TO BID

Interested parties are hereby invited for the supply and delivery of the materials to be used for the following:

1. CONSTRUCTION OF 6.030 KM SAN RAFAEL, MEXICO, 3 PHASE , 13.2 KV TIE UP LINE
2. CONSTRUCTION OF 1.375 KM 69 KV SUB-TRANSMISSION LINE
3. CONSTRUCTION OF 2.718 KM 13.2 KV OVERHEAD 3 PHASE LINE

Bidders must submit the following requirements for pre-qualification: Company Profile, Latest ITR, Latest Audited Financial Statement, business or Mayor's permit, DTI registration, SEC registration.(Original copies to be shown for authentication purpose).

Submission of Pre-qualification Documents	-	May 17 –19, 2007
Bid Documents are available on	-	May 21 – 25, 2007
Date and Time of Pre-bid Conference	-	May 28, 2007 at 2PM
OPENING OF BIDS	-	May 31, 2007 at 2PM

Bid documents can be availed from 8:00AM to 5:00PM thru the BAC Chairman or its members by paying the corresponding fee at PELCO I main office, Sto. Domingo, Mexico, Pampanga. Accredited suppliers previously pre-qualified still need to update their files (if necessary) with PELCO I.

Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security (Cash, Manager's Check, Cashier's Check or Surety Bond) of at least 2.5% of the total bid amount.

PELCO I reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids including application to pre-qualify without stating any reason. For any inquiry, please contact the members of the BAC at telephone numbers stated above.

(Sgd.) ENGR. ROY M. DE LEON
BAC Chairman

Noted by:
(Sgd.) ENGR. LOLIANO E. ALLAS
General Manager

(PDI - May 13 & 15, 2007)

SBMA DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
SBMA Bldg 709, Cor Burgos & Quezon Sts., Subic Bay Freeport Zone Phils. 2222
Telephone (6347) 252-4613/4219/4474 Fax. (6347) 252-4339

INVITATION TO BID

FOR THE SALE OF ASSORTED DISPOSABLE/SURPLUS/ UNSERVICEABLE AND OTHER SCRAP MATERIALS "AS IS, WHERE IS"

ITEM NO:	DESCRIPTION/LOCATION
Lot 01	ASSORTED INJECTION MACHINES, PLASTIC RESINS, ELECTRONICS AND OTHER RELATED EQUIPMENT FROM KACE ELECTRONICS PHILIPPINES, INC. LOCATED AT BLDG. 895 AND BLDG. 799, DEWEY AVENUE, SBFZ AND DEMOLITION OF BLDG. 274, LOCATED AT MANILA AVENUE, SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE
Lot 02	ASSORTED DISPOSABLE/SCRAP VEHICLES LOCATED AT B-305, TRANSPORTATION, CANAL ROAD, SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE.

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Schedule	Venue
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	May 21-25, 2007 Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m	Disposal Committee Secretariat Property Management Division Bldg. 709, Burgos St., Subic Bay Freeport Zone
2. Pre-Bid Conference and Inspection of Lots.	May 29, 2007 Tuesday, 9:00 a.m.	PPMD Conference Room Procurement and Property Management Dept. (PPMD) Rm. 201, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ
3. Submission/Opening of Bids	June 5, 2007 Tuesday, 2:00 p.m.	PPMD Conference Room Procurement and Property Management Dept. (PPMD) Rm. 201, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ.

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of P1,000.00 to the SBMA Treasury Dept., Bldg. 229, Waterfront Road, SBFZ.

(Sgd.) ATTY. FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ
Chairman, Disposal Committee

(PDI - May 13, 2007)

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AUGUST 2007

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Who should Join: Developers, Brokers, Franchisers, Medical Services, Wellness & Spa Facilities Tourism, Banks, Retirement Facilities, BPOs, Others interested in tapping the American market:

Pomona, CA — Aug 4 & 5 — "US-PHIL EXPO" — Fairplex, Fairgrounds

★

San Francisco, CA — August 11 & 12 — " PISTAHAN " — Yerba Buena, SF, CA

★

Secaucus, NJ — August 18 & 19 — " PHILIPPINE FIESTA " — Meadowlands Expo Center

★

Chicago — August 25 — Dinner with Fil-Am Assoc. of Chicago

CHAMBER OF REAL ESTATE & BUILDERS' ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

Tel: +632 373 2270 to 72
Fax: +632 373 2271/74
Email: creba_inc@yahoo.com

Orientation Meeting

May 18, 2007 (Friday), 3:00pm at the Makati Sports Club

R.S.V.P.

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITB NO.: 05-03-2007

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested bidders in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

Name of Project : Annual Medical Examination Requirement for PAGCOR Employees of PAGCOR Corporate Offices, Imus Complex, Casino Filipino Metro Manila Branches and Casino Filipino Tagaytay

Approved Budget: Nine Million Seven Hundred Seventy Six Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Eight Pesos (Php9,776,698.00)

Source of Fund : Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila., Tel. No. 526-0573.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	May 15, 2007 – June 01, 2007
2. Pre-Bid Conference	May 22, 2007 (10:00 am)
3. Submission of Bids	June 04, 2007 (10:00 am)
4. Opening of Bids	June 04, 2007 (10 am onwards)

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office, 2nd Flr. PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of ***Four Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Eight and 35/100 Pesos (Php4,888.35)***. In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretariat.

PAGCOR assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

PAGCOR reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department.

(Sgd.) **RAFAEL A. FRANCISCO**
Chairperson, BAC 3

(PDI – May 13, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project
(National Project Management Office)
S/F Bonifacio Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

DepED

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : May 2, 2007
Loan No. : PH-P200

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepED) has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), in Japanese Yen towards financing the cost of Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the supply and delivery of Furniture to Selected Secondary Schools in the Philippines.
2. The DepED, through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of the Division of Zamboanga Sibugay invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of School Furniture for classrooms, science laboratories, home economics, industrial arts, libraries, guidance and faculty rooms of the following schools: **Pioneer NHS-San Pedro Annex, San Antonio NHS, Titay NHS-Palomoc Annex, Surabay NHS, Payao NHS-Bulawan Annex, Payao NHS, Olutarga NHS, Diplahan NHS-Gulnoman Annex, Diplahan NHS-Gaulan Annex, Malangas NHS, Ipil NHS, Makilas NHS-Annex, Bacalan NHS-Annex, Minsulao NHS, Laih Batu NHS and Monching Annex.**
3. Bidders are required to submit their bids for the complete quantities of all the furniture items intended for the selected schools listed in Paragraph 2, per schedule of requirements of the bidding documents.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain complete information about the proposed project upon submission of a Letter of Intent and acquire the bidding documents from the **SEDIP-Division Office, Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay, with telefax number: (062) 333-5492.**
5. Bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting **May 9, 2007 until 5:00 P.M. of May 16, 2007** upon payment to the DepED Division Office Cashier of a non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00).**
6. Sealed bids, together with the bid security of equivalent percentage to the total bid amount as specified in ITB-7 page 5 of the Instruction to Bidders, must be delivered to the Division Office on **May 30, 2007 not later than 10:00 A.M.** Said bids will be opened immediately for reading in public in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.
7. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held at the address indicated in Paragraph 4 on **May 18, 2007 at 10:00 A.M.**
8. The Division BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality therein and award the furniture packages to one or more bidders.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA P. ZAMORA**
DBAC Chairman

(PDI – May 6 & 13, 2007)

sbma — *Office of the Chairman*
Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
3rd Bldg. 255, Rm. 223 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
☎(047) 252-4713 / 4483 Fax No. (047) 252-4472

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines

SBMA LANDSCAPING WORKS AND REHABILITATION/MAINTENANCE PROJECT
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

Project Description/Scope of Works:

The Works shall include provision of labor, materials, equipment and other incidentals to complete the landscaping works (site preparations, planting works, grassing works, and others) of designated public spaces within Subic Bay Freeport Zone; and rehabilitation/restoration and maintenance of existing turf and garden.

1. The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), through its Corporate Budget for 2007 intends to apply the sum of **Nine Million Pesos (Php 9 Million)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **SBMA Landscaping Works and Rehabilitation/Maintenance Project.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The SBMA now calls for the submission of **Letters of Intent (LOIs) and Application for Eligibility** from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the SBMA Landscaping Works and Rehabilitation/Maintenance Project. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids.
3. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).
4. Information on BAC activities is as follows:

Item No.	BAC Activities	Schedule	Venue
1.	Receipt from prospective bidders of LOIs including Application for Eligibility and Issuance of Eligibility Forms	May 21 & 22, 2007; 8:00AM to 5:00PM	BAC Chairman c/o Engineering Department, Room 223, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone (SBFZ)
2.	Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	May 25, 2007; 8:00AM to 5:00PM	BAC Secretariat, Room 203, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ
3.	Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	June 1, 2007 8:00AM-5:00PM	Same address on Item 2
4.	Issuance of Bid Documents	June 4, 2007 – June 10, 2007 8:00AM to 5:00PM; June 11, 2007 8:00AM-12PM	Same address on Item 1
5.	Pre-bid Conference	June 11, 2007; 2:00PM	PPMD Conference Room, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ
6.	Receipt and Opening of Bids	June 25, 2007; 2:00PM	Same address on Item 5

5. The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the above address upon their submission of a LOI and Application for Eligibility, and upon their payment of a non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand Pesos (Php2,000.00).**
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon presentation of the Notice of Eligibility and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00).**
7. Relevant Requirement: Minimum PCAB Registration and Classification/License:

   General Building
   GB-4 Park, Playground or Recreational Work
   Small B

8. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, a certified check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC), or bank guarantee (1.5% of ABC) or surety bond (2.5% of ABC). Late Bids shall not be accepted.
9. Completion of the Works is required by **Ninety (90) calendar days** from the date stated in the Notice to Proceed.
10. The SBMA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, in accordance with the provisions of RA 9184 without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. RAMON O. AGREGADO**
BAC Chairman/SDA for Support Services

(PDI–May 13, 2007)

For your Classified Ads requirements:

HEAD OFFICE	:	897-8808 loc. 514, 516; 899-4425; 897-2535; 897-8425 (Telefax)
CUBAO	:	912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)
MAKATI	:	892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370
KALAW	:	528-0213; 527-3342
MEGAMALL	:	635-0219; 635-0220

INVITATION TO BID

"AS IS WHERE IS"
DAMAGED MOTOR VEHICLES

2004 ISUZU DOUBLE CAB
2006 TOYOTA INNOVA
2006 HONDA CRV 2.4

For particulars, call **812-4520**

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that **MS. MIA RICA JUDITH NAZARIO** is no longer the President of **GLOBAL SEAFOODS RICHSEA CORPORATION** effective April 24, 2007.

Any transaction entered into by Ms. Mia Rica Judith Nazario in such capacity on behalf of the Corporation will not be honored.

(PDI – May 13, 2007)

NREA golf tournament sets

IN HONOR OF ITS CHAIR AND FOUNDER, THE National Real Estate Association will hold its 9th Annual Chairman's Cup Invitational Golf Tournament on May 24, at the Philippine Navy Golf Club, Taguig City.

Andy Mañalac, NREA national president, will announced the guests during the 6:30 a. m. ceremonial tee-off.

The tournament, which will use Systems 36 rules, is part of NREA's year-round sports activities which adhere to the dictum of a sound mind in a healthy body for its members, while at the same time promoting camaraderie among themselves and with their counterparts in the government housing sector.

For particulars, contact the Secretariat at tel. nos. 913-4463 or 912-3492.

FRSC to host 2007 IASB regional meeting

THE PHILIPPINES WILL HOST THE 2007 IASB Regional Accounting Standard-Setters meeting on June 13 and 14, 2007, Carlos A. Alindada, Chairman of the Philippine Financial Reporting Standards announced. Sir David Tweedie, chair of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and Mr. Warren McGregor as IASB Liaison member and representatives of national accounting standard-setters from various countries in the Asia Pacific Region will participate in this event.

A one-day seminar on June 13 entitled "Forum on Impact of IFRS: A Regional Perspective" will focus on Update on IASB work programs and technical projects, Philippine Convergence on IFRS, Accounting for Small and Medium-sized Entities and Fair Value Accounting. In addition, several countries' experience in interpreting IFRS will be showcased. Implementation issues will be also addressed. The seminar will be held at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati City.

Interested parties may contact the PICPA Secretariat at 723-5476; 723-0691 to 93, or e-mail us at picpaadm@pldt.net, or fax us at 723-6305; 726-9452 for other details. Participants will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Early registrants are entitled to a discount.

ENERGY SECRETARY RAPHAEL LOTILLA VISITED THE COMMAND CENTER OF TASK Force Halalan on May 11 to oversee the preparations of the energy sector for the May 14 elections. TF Halalan, composed of National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), National Power, National Electrification Administration, Meralco, Phil. Electricity Market Corporation, PNOC-Energy Development Corporation, and Philippine Electric Plant Owners Association was formed to implement contingency plans to ensure electricity-related concerns all over the country are immediately detected and addressed. The general public can contact the TF Halalan Command Center via eight hotline numbers including the toll-free 1-800-10-TRANSCO and mobile numbers 0918-9073024 and 0918-9244247.

NOTICE

MR. ALLAN DE LUNA

This is to notify the public that the person shown above is no longer connected with **MARSMAC INDUSTRIAL PARTS & EQUIPMENT CORPORATION** and its affiliates. Any transaction that he will be entered on behalf of the company will be no longer entertained.

(PDI - May 13, 2007)

NOTICE

The public is hereby informed that the following employees had resigned from **Höegh Fleet Services Philippines, Inc.**

1. **ROBERTO C. SATIADA**
   (Effective May 01, 2007)
2. **MANUEL NOEL S. SULIBET**
   (Effective May 01, 2007)

Any transaction entered into by the aforesaid employees on behalf of the Company shall not be honored.

(This Ad is in compliance with POEA requirement.)

(PDI – May 13, 2007)

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416-8144/416-8145/373-3901 loc. 8302/8303/8220

Former Cabanatuan City Mayor and Chairwoman of Cabanatuan Electric Corporation (CELCOR)

Evangelina Vijandre Vergara

December 15, 1919 – May 11, 2007
Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija

peacefully joined our Lord on May 11, 2007 at the age of 87.

Her loving son, **CABANATUAN CITY MAYOR JAY VERGARA and family**, brothers and sisters, and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie at 130 Del Pilar Street, Cabanatuan City. Interment will be today, May 13, 2007, at the Cabanatuan Public Cemetery after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the San Nicholas Cathedral.

MARIA LUISA "Aloy" CONTY MARELLA

passed away in the Grace of our Lord on May 8, 2007 in Rancho Cucamonga, California, USA

Her loving family, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on May 19, 2007 at the Forest Lawn Covina Hills, California, USA.

AETERNUM – TRUE GARDEN COLUMBARY
Aeternum, The Park Estate Columbary, is the country's first true garden columbary. Aeternum is located at Heritage Park Area 2, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City on the cross roads of C-5 and Bayani Road. The launching and blessing of this finished columbary was held on May 11. Let us celebrate life in full bloom and embrace the beauty of nature at Aeternum.

DEATH NOTICE

VERNILIO C. CRISTUTA
Inquirer Forwarder of Cebu City
died of vehicular accident on May 10, 2007.
His remains will be brought to Macapso Valle Hermoso, Negros Oriental.
Interment will be on May 20, 2007.

Notify family and friends of a loved one who had just passed away

We accept death notices announcing details of the person's wake and interment. For a very affordable fee, you can reach out to everyone who have been a part of the life of your dearly departed.

For more information, you may contact Inquirer Classifieds at (02)897 8425.

People, Events & Products

ECOFUEL SAVER ULTIMATE ME2 JOINS '07 TRANS SPORT SHOW

Network marketing firm Orientrends, which holds the Philippine rights to Ultimate ME2, a one-of-a kind, environmentally friendly, liquid fuel performance enhancing additive from the US, joined the recently concluded 2007 Trans Sport Show at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall. The country's most prestigious motoring event not only featured the best restored classic and contemporary show cars but also the latest in automotive related products and services. In photo manning their booth are Orientrends' principals (r-l) Raul Bautista, Reynaldo Coronel, and Rommel Panganiban. Headquartered at Unit GFC-2A, Classica Condominium, HV dela Costa, Salcedo Vill., Makati and on the web at www.ultimateme2.com, Orientrends briefed exhibit guests about Ultimate ME2 benefits and also signed up sales-oriented individuals to join its growing sales network. Ultimate ME2 is the only product in its league to be US-EPA (United States-Environmental Protection Agency) tested and proven to have desirable results both on mileage and exhaust emissions. Lab tests show 13 percent and 16 percent increase in mileage in gasoline and diesel engines, respectively. Tests also proved that Ultimate ME2 will result in 44 percent reduction in oxides of nitrogen, 33% reduction in carbon monoxide and 7 percent reduction in hydrocarbon emissions.

Family bonding at mealtimes with Coke

DAD COMES HOME FROM THE OFFICE TIRED FROM A long hard day's work. While mom is in the kitchen preparing dinner, Kuya is on the phone and Ate is busy texting. And even bunso is preoccupied playing with his computer. Mom looks at her family, all busy with their own lives, and wishes that they could all spend more time as a family. It's a good thing she has a trusted ally in getting her family together. With a smile on her face, she reaches into her shopping bag and pulls out a cold and refreshing Coca-Cola Litro. At the twist of the cap and the hiss of the bottle, Dad, kuya, ate and bunso look up. They know it's time for dinner; time to share food, fun and Coca-Cola. That is the story of the new Coke TV commercial which kicked off Coca-Cola's new campaign dubbed Bonding sa Buhay Coke Buksan Mo. Launched on April 15, the campaign invites Filipino moms to embrace family togetherness. In every bottle of Coke is enduring family bonding. When moms choose to bring a Coke to the table, they choose to add life not just the meal occasion but to the family interaction at the table. For the mom, mealtime serves as the best opportunity to bring her family together because it's when the family comes together everyday. However, the simple ritual of the shared family meal is being threatened amidst today's fast-paced life. In many households, family members all eat separately, according to their own schedules, on the run or in front of TV. Coke is actively inviting moms to spend more time together as a family during mealtimes. Taking this call for family bonding to the streets, the campaign will launch several TV commercials, print and outdoor advertisements and even the iconic jeepneys. The new collaterals feature the warm picture of a family, interspersed with happy and colorful emoticons like smiley faces, hearts and peace signs to convey the feeling of family-togetherness.

Online giving portal opens doors for donations

IN AN EFFORT TO REACH A WIDER RANGE OF DONORS and recipients, various industries joined hands to set up a much easier and more accessible giving portal that allows non-governmental organizations to receive donations from around the world. Reconnect Philippine Giving Portal unites Equitable Bank Network, Asiapay, and MRM Worldwide in this endeavor that will benefit most of the more than 100,000 non-governmental agencies in the country. Marili M. Tioseco, senior vice president of Equitable Bank Network, said that this gives people the best avenue to share their blessings to less fortunate members of society; and adds that Equitable would gladly be a part of this effort to help Filipinos and NGOs. The managing director of MRM Worldwide that developed the webpage explained how the portal operates. Ernest Custodio said that being online is strategic to NGOs. The website also includes basic information about the NGOs that are willing to be part of the Reconnect. In this way, prospective donors can choose which NGO they want to donate. Using the credit card, potential contributors can charge the amount they intend to donate. Joseph Chan, president of Asiapay and project initiator of the e-charity platform, said online donation gives extra convenience with minimal effort with a wider reach. He cites the success of online donation in Hong Kong through credit card. He also said that the donation increased compared to previous years. Mayan Quebral, executive director of Venture for Fund Raising is also present during the launch at the Equitable Tower in Makati. To know more about reconnect log on to: www.reconnect.org.ph.

St. Paul College-QC presents 'It's sooo '80s'

ST. PAUL COLLEGE QUEZON CITY HIGH SCHOOL BATCH '83, in cooperation with Nike Women and Nike Forum, is sponsoring "It's soo '80s!", a dance party powered by Jon Tupaz on May 18, Friday, at the Greenwich Corinthian Clubhouse in Corinthian Gardens, Quezon City. Proceeds shall be for the benefit of St. Paul assisted schools in Zamboanga del Norte, Cebu, Misamis Oriental and Polilio, Quezon. For inquiries, call or text 0917-8392565.

Unilab brands found in 6 out of 10 Pinoy homes

SIX OUT 10 FILIPINO FAMILIES HAVE AT LEAST ONE UNILAB product in their homes, shows the latest consumer study from internationally respected research agency Nielsen covering urban households nationwide. This figure means that at least one Unilab product is present in almost six million Filipino urban households all over the country. Nielsen conducted the nationwide study through one-on-one personal interviews using a structured questionnaire with 2,000 housewives aged 16 to 60 in major urban areas in Metro Manila and in other regions. To validate the respondents' claim, Nielsen conducted an actual pantry check to determine if in fact they have the Unilab products they claim to have. The study revealed that 21 percent of total urban households in the country keep purely Unilab products in their homes. Among the products found in households are Biogesic (highest at 52 percent of total households), Neozep (22 percent), Ceelin (21 percent), Alaxan and RiteMED amoxicillin (13 percent), and Tiki-tiki (11 percent). Unilab's presence in households is highest in Metro Manila where 8 out of 10 households have at least one Unilab product. In Luzon, it's 5 out of 10; in Visayas, 7 out of 10; and in Mindanao, 6 out of 10. Motivating factors for consumers' positive attitude towards Unilab are its industry leadership, affordability of medicines, value for money, availability of products, being a good employer, and its good corporate citizenship.

Enjoy a 'Fantastic' summer with Acer 'Fantastic 4' promo

IT WAS A JOY TO WATCH A GROUP OF "SUPERS," OR "superheroes," if you may, as they discovered their powers and helped save the world from villains in last year's explosive movie feature, "Fantastic 4." This year, Acer (Philippines), a subsidiary of one of the world's top PC manufacturers will bring back that same delight and excitement as they give Acer customers the chance to watch this one-of-a-kind movie's most-awaited sequel, "Fantastic 4: The Rise of the Silver Surfer" through its "Fantastic Acer Summer with Fantastic 4" promo. The "Fantastic Acer Summer with Fantastic 4" promo is open to all Acer PC buyers in the country who purchased their Acer products from any of its authorized resellers nationwide from May 7, 2007 to June 7, 2007. For every purchase of an Acer notebook or desktop computer within the promo period, buyers automatically get two (2) free tickets to the Philippine screening of "Fantastic 4: The Rise of the Silver Surfer," to be held on June 13, 2007 at designated Ayala Malls cinemas nationwide. To avail of the free movie tickets, buyers must log on at www.acer.com.ph and register online. At the customer registration page, they need to fill out their name, age, company or school, home, office or mobile phone number, e-mail address, product model and serial number of the Acer product they bought, and the location of the Ayala Mall cinema where they wish to watch the movie. For other details and inquiries regarding the "Fantastic Acer Summer with Fantastic 4" promo, log on to www.acer.com.ph.

HCCA'S SKILLS FAIR AT U.S.T. COLLEGE OF NURSING

HCCA Phil. Inc. held its Annual Nursing Skills Enhancement Fair at University of Santo Tomas in España, Manila. Labeled Horizon's 2007, A Nursing Skills Enhancement Fair. The week-long activity was designed to equip graduating students of the U.S.T. College of Nursing with additional practical experience and knowledge based on international nursing practices and state-of-the-art patient care technologies. "The Horizons program was created by HCCA as a way of giving back to the nursing community and assisting with the country's efforts to graduate only the best of health care professionals," said Joseph Gilinsky, HCCA vice president and managing director for Asia-Pacific and Middle East Regions. The program was a big addition to the skill arsenal of the nursing students as it was designed to translate theoretical knowledge into practical situations. Shown in picture are (from left) Joseph Gilinsky and Glenda Vargas, Dean of the UST College of Nursing with the HCCA and UST staff.

HILTI MEASURING SYSTEM

The ruggedly-built Hilti PRI 2 rotating laser packs all the advantages of laser alignment into a compact tool for interior finishing. Its bright, accurate laser line and simple infrared remote control make alignment work and marking out faster and easier than ever. Hilti PRI 2 Rotating Laser is among the wide product range developed, being manufactured and distributed by Hilti Group. The range covers drilling and demolition, direct fastening, diamond and anchoring systems, firestop and foam systems, installation, measuring and screw fastening systems as well as cutting and sanding systems. Hilti operates in over 120 countries around the world. Its local subsidiary Hilti (Philippines) Inc. shall showcase their products at forthcoming 15th Construction Show in Cebu on June 1 to 4 at the Cebu Trade Hall, 3/f SM City Cebu. A project of L.A. Ducut and Company, Inc. in cooperation with the Hardwares Consolidated, Inc. (HCI).

JOB Market

SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2007
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www.jobmarketonline.com

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OUR COMPANY

IBM Business Services, Inc. (IBS) is the leading Business Transformation Outsourcing (BTO) Delivery Center in the Asia-Pacific region. We offer Human Resources (HR) and Finance and Accounting (F&A) services for companies such as Procter & Gamble, Kodak, and Lenovo. Our diverse workforce of 1,200+ employees provide both English and multilingual support for clients located in North America, Asia-Pacific, Europe, and Africa.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONALS (PDI-HRP)

- Must be HR Practitioners with experience in one or more of the following HR processes: Payroll, Recruiting, Travel & Expense, Inquiry Management, Employee Data, HRIS, Benefits Administration, Application Management, Learning / Training Services, Compensation / Salary Planning, Expatriate & Relocation Services

FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING PROFESSIONALS (PDI-FAP)

- Must be FA Practitioners with experience in one or more of the following FA processes: Auditing, Disputes, Collections, Fixed Asset, WIP, Property control, Accounts Payable, System Operations, Policy and Controls, Accounts Receivable, Fixed Asset Accounting, SAP System Deployment, Balance Sheet Reconciliation

FRESH GRADUATES FOR VARIOUS HR / F&A RELATED POSITIONS (PDI-FG)

- All March/April fresh graduates are encouraged to apply and take our pre-employment examination at the Recruitment Center
- Preferably graduates of HR, Psychology, Behavioral Science, Finance and Accounting, Business and IT-related courses.
- HR and F&A related positions await those who will pass the pre-employment examination
- Candidates are expected to have good communication skills and must be willing to work on the night shift and/or travel abroad if required.

WHY WORK FOR IBS:

- IBM is a Fortune 500 company that is known all over the world
- Limitless career opportunities within IBS and the broader IBM businesses
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- Very rewarding night shift premium for those hired for the night shift operations
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- HMO coverage and scholarship programs for you and your qualified dependents
- Daycare center and pre-school provision for children
- Generous leaves entitlement
- Awards and incentives
- Highly supportive and approachable management team

HOW TO APPLY:

FRESH GRADUATES and applicants who have less than 18 months work experience are required to take our pre-employment examination. Fast track your application by walking-in at our Recruitment Center From Monday to Friday, 10am - 4pm. Look for Jennifer Espinosa.

Our RECRUITMENT CENTER is located at the
7F 1800 Building, Eastwood Ave., Libis, Quezon City

You can also apply online. EMAIL your resumes to
ibmhire@ph.ibm.com
(Please indicate the job code in the subject line)

For inquiries, you may CONTACT any of these numbers
Trunkline: 995.6987 Local 5095 and 5093

What do you do best?

SPi, a wholly-owned subsidiary of ePLDT, is a leading global BPO provider with numerous locations across the United States, Europe, and Asia. We are always looking for more of the right people to help us provide our worldwide clients with high quality, cost-effective content outsourcing solutions.

Most of our employees are specialists in our various strategic business units, while others are well-educated generalists with excellent project delivery skills. All are computer literate, have a strong work ethic, want to keep learning, and are comfortable in our creative, open and flexible team atmosphere.

Do you want to excel at what you do best? APPLY NOW.

We are in need of the following:

CORPORATE SUPPORT

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- Recruitment Specialists
- Purchasing Assistants
- Internal Auditor (SOX)
- Financial Analysts
- Central Accountants
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- Production Analysts (Windows, DOS. UNIX and/or Perl)
- Quality Assurance Analyst (Windows and UNIX environments)
- Project Database Administrator (MySQL, MS SQL and MS Access)
- Files Management and Technical Supervisor
- Project Managers
- Editorial Assistants
- Copyeditors
- Foreign Language Specialist (Asian and European Languages)
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- Graphics Operators
- Customer Support Staff
- Document Analysts

Interested and qualified applicants may send their resume to:
Corporate Recruitment
SPi Bldg., Pascor Drive, Sto. Niño, Parañaque City 1700
Email: recruitment@spi-bpo.com (Please indicate the position title in the subject line)

Application may also be via online at www.spi-bpo.com (click on Careers, then Current Opportunities)

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IT Support
Manager Desktop Admin
Desktop Administrator
Associate Systems Administrator
Telecom Administrator
Network Administrator
Security Analyst
Server Administrator

Mary Gil, 23, Has 10 Mouths To Feed. Cinch To a Yogo.

Gils used to strut her stuff on the catwalk. Lips pout and pout. Turn. Pirouette. Camera flash flicker. Been there. Done that.

Today, Gils has moved on from the catwalk to the corridors of ICT. She's a Yogo. And she has 10 mouths to feed. More, actually. There's the family. 2 cats, 3 beagles, 4 poodles. And a cranky, old pug.

This is Melissa. Friends and family call her Leng. She describes herself as a typical ... surprise, surprise ... homebody. But what most people don't know is, she pays for her own don, plus all the interior styling that went into pimping her crib. 100% cola.

Today, over 5,000 other Yogos share Leng's can-do attitude, her zen-like approach to work, and her passion for the occasional spa-pampering.

So, go YogO. Only at ICT.
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Call: 857-0305
e-mail resumes to: yogomanila@ictgroup.com

or come see us:
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Makati
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Marikina
Ground Floor ICT Bldg 1, Rivebanks Centre, Marikina

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Be a YOGO

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CLERICAL/ADMINISTRATIVE - Administrative Assistant, Office Clerk, Data Encoder/Processor, Executive Assistant, Secretary, Office Administrator, Credit Assistant, Purchasing Assistant
COMMUNICATION – Public Affairs Communication Assistant, Corporate Communication Assistant, Events Coordinator
CUSTOMER SERVICE - Front Desk Receptionist, Receptionist Supervisor, Customer Care Representative, Telephone/Admin Receptionist, Customer Advisor, Customer Support Executive
ENGINEERING/ARCHITECTURE - Architect, CADD Operator, Project Engineer, Civil Engineer, Construction Engineer, Estimator, Sanitary Engineer, Customer Service Engineer, Mechanical Engineer, Electrical Engineer, Industrial Engineer, Supply Chain Assistant, Data Analyst, Business Process Assistant
HUMAN RESOURCES – HR Compensation and Benefits, Employee Relations, Recruitment Assistant, Training/Development, Organizational Development, Technical Recruiter, Psychometricians
INSURANCE - Agents, Claims Processor, Underwriting Clerk
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - Desktop Support/Network Administrator, Lotus Notes Administrator, PL/SQL Programmers, Software Developer/Programmer, Technical Support, Web Designer/Developer, Graphic Artist, Technical Writer, I.T. Helpdesk, I.T. Encoder, VB.Net Programmer, Audio/Visual Technicians
MANUFACTURING/OPERATIONS - Machine Operators, Production Operators
PHARMACEUTICAL/MEDICAL - Lab Technicians, Pharmacist, Medical Encoders, Clinical Research Assistant, Company Nurse, Medical Secretary
HOTEL/RESTAURANT/FOOD SERVICE - Service Crew, Waiters, Busboys, Cook, Bartenders, Butchers, Bakers, Kitchen Helpers, Steward, Food Attendant
RETAIL - Retails Sales Coordinator, Outlet Sales Supervisor, Store Sales Assistant, Cashiers, Merchandisers. Promodiser
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS – Library Clerks, Registrar Clerk, Attendance Checker,
SALES and MARKETING - Account Executives, Sales Engineers, Sales Representative, Telemarketers, Field Sales Coordinator, Corporate Sales
TELECOMMUNICATION - Project Engineers, Network Technicians, Schedulers, Project Assistants, Field Technicians Test Engineers, Lineman
TRANSPORTATION/LOGISTICS - Drivers, Courier, Operations Agents, Warehouse Clerk, Warehouse Assistants, Forklift Operators

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JOB DESCRIPTION: The successful candidates will be tasked to lead a team of Medical Representatives in meeting their goals and objectives in their assigned area.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- ✓ Graduate of a four year course preferably in the field of Marketing, Management or any Medical/Social Science courses
- ✓ Has pleasing personality and of good moral standing.
- ✓ Has at least 3 years work experience in a supervisory or managerial capacity preferably gained from a large pharmaceutical company
- ✓ Has proven track record in selling pharmaceutical or healthcare products or in consumer goods sales
- ✓ Willing to be assigned or a resident of Visayas or Mindanao.

COMPETENCIES:
- ✓ Effective oral and written communication
- ✓ Outstanding interpersonal and people management skills
- ✓ Excellent customer service skills
- ✓ Strong sales and motivation skills
- ✓ Self-confident and has good work ethics
- ✓ Thrives on a fast-paced sales environment
- ✓ Strong leadership skills and team building skills
- ✓ Keen analytical and business skills
- ✓ Flexible and able to adapt to all kinds of working environment
- ✓ Proficient in the use of different computer software languages

MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVES

JOB DESCRIPTION: The successful candidates will be tasked to manage their territory in the field of selling pharmaceutical and health care products by establishing good relationship with their clients.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- ✓ Holds a four-year course preferably in the field of Marketing, Accounting, Management or any Medical / Social Science courses.
- ✓ Male / Female not more than 28 years
- ✓ Has pleasing personality and of good moral standing.
- ✓ Experience not necessary but may be an advantage
- ✓ Preferably residents or willing to be assigned in the following areas: Laoag, Baguio, Urdaneta, Tarlac, Angeles, San Fernando, Malolos, Baliwag, Cebu, Butuan City, Ozamiz/Pagadian, Zamboanga and Davao. Metro Manila assignments are also open.

COMPETENCIES:
- ✓ Has high energy, vibrant, aggressive and customer oriented
- ✓ Able to deal with all kinds of people
- ✓ Above average oral and written communication skills
- ✓ Self propelled, can work with minimum supervision
- ✓ Good business ethics and has innate excellent interpersonal skills
- ✓ Flexible and can adapt to any working environment
- ✓ Proficient in the use of different computer software and languages

For Metro Manila applicants: please apply in person or send your letter of application, comprehensive resumé with 2x2 colored picture, diploma and transcript of records not later than May 21, 2007 to the address below.

For Visayas / Mindanao applicants: please email your resumé at **arna.carandang@isopharma.com.ph.** or mail your resumé, 2x2 picture and transcript of records in the address below not later than May 21, 2007. Interviews will be conducted in Cebu. Qualified applicants shall be notified by phone on the venue and interview schedule.

The Human Resource Department
ISOPHARMA, INC.
G/F JM Business Center, Osmeña Highway corner Rockefeller St. Brgy. San Isidro, Makati City
Email Address: **arna.carandang@isopharma.com.ph.**
Tel # 889-9496 to 97
Fax # 844-70-43

NDC DIGI-TECH

A **Japanese CAD/CAM Company** that Designs Plastic Injection Molds and 3D Modeling for Consumers Products, Cars Parts, Motorcycle Parts etc. currently needs:

CAD / CAM ENGINEERS

- Male or Female, 21-28 yrs. old
- Graduate of Mechanical Engineering or Any Engineering Course.
- Knowledgeable in 3D Modeling and Technical Drawing is a must.
- Knowledgeable in 2DNC and 3DNC Programming (Optional).
- Skilled in using any 3D CAD/CAM Software.
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply

Previous applicants need not apply.

Qualified applicants may send their resumé on May 11, 2007 to May 20, 2007 at Unit 209 Plaz@ B Northgate Cyberzone Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa. Or fax it to 757-4602. Or e-mail us at **info@ndedigitech.com.**

POLU KAI Grill

Aloha!! The Polu Kai Grill needs the following dynamic people to join their team!!

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- 25-30 yrs old, male or female
- with a degree in HRM or a certificate in a reputable culinary school
- has worked or done internships in an American casual restaurant
- HACCP trained, Servsafe competent

If you think you are qualified please bring your resumé to
THE POLU KAI GRILL, Unit 128, Ground Floor, Shops at Serendra
The Fort, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. Tel no. 9011841

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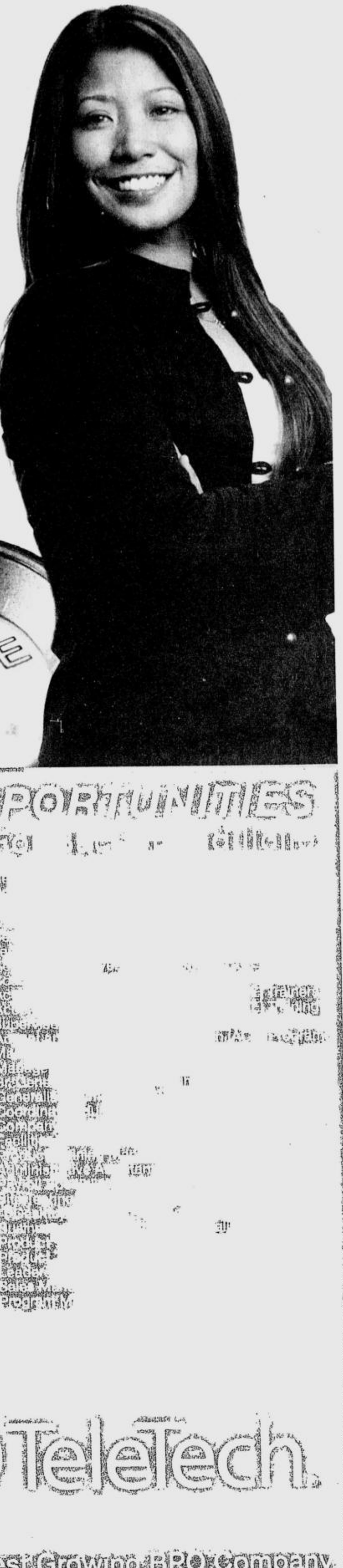

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Qualifications

- must be able to work well in a dynamic environment
- must be goal oriented and with a mind for strategy
- must be able to articulately deal with people, whether colleagues or client in a regular basis
- not more than 35 years old
- at least 2 years of college education
- proficient in oral and written english
- with good network structure by September 2007 with the completion of its pool. Meantime, awareness should be spread already to the nearby villages and offices in Paranaque and Alabang area.

Job Description

1. Manage the entire selling process
   - market research
   - client prospecting
   - presentation to clients
   - take clients to site trips
   - manage clients expectations and concerns
2. Consistently follow-up buyers and keep them updated with Landco's new projects and activities
3. Remain in constant communication with clients to procure any kind of feedback, answer concerns and ensure qualities.
4. Be synchronized with the whole sales team in all related sales activities.by September 2007 with the completion of its pool. Meantime, awareness should be spread already to the nearby villages and offices in Paranaque and Alabang area.

Landco is further innovating the real estate business by developing condominium units to be able to offer their properties to what the market is looking for. The first of their many projects is TRIBECA.

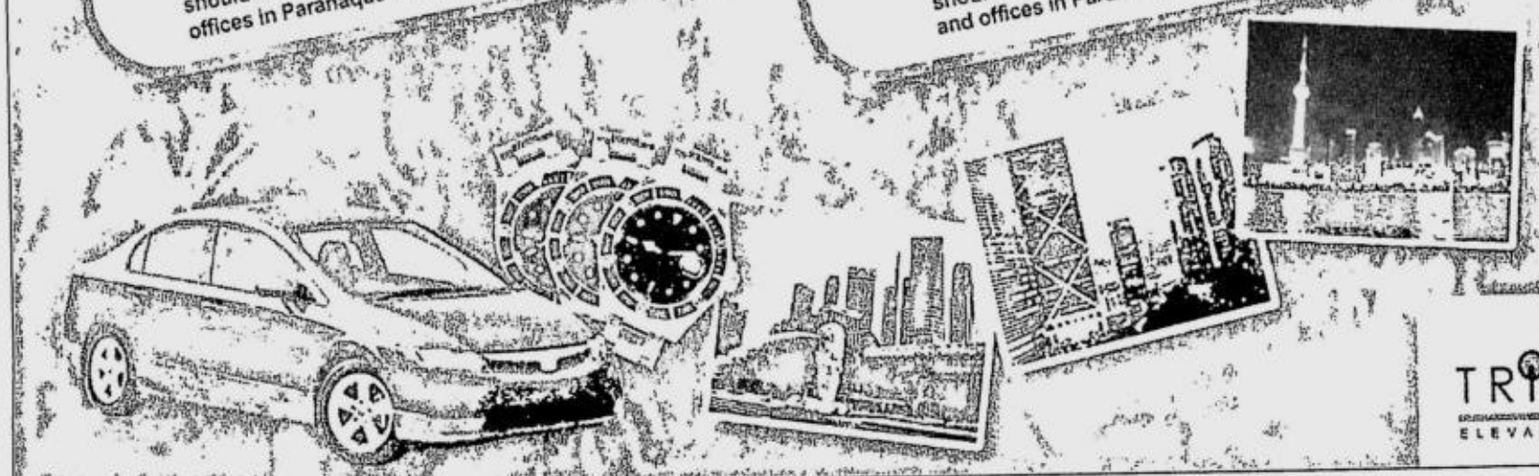
TRIbeca is a 9.7 hectare-property located in East Service Road, South Super Highway, Muntinlupa City; 10-15 minutes from Alabang and 30-45 minutes from Makati City; It is a joint venture project between Landco Pacific Corporation and ATR Kimeng.

It is a condominium project composed of 15 buildings, 12 to 15 floors per building. The first phase of this project comprises of two buildings with a total of 400 units (Studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom).

TRIbeca is targeting to be open for selling by June 2007 with the completion of its Clubhouse and Marketing Office; and to launch by September 2007 with the completion of its pool. Meantime, awareness should be spread already to the nearby villages and offices in Paranaque and Alabang area.

Recruitment Sked

May 14, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM and May 15 to 18, 8:00 AM to 11:30 AM. IMMEDIATE HIRING FOR QUALIFIED PC.



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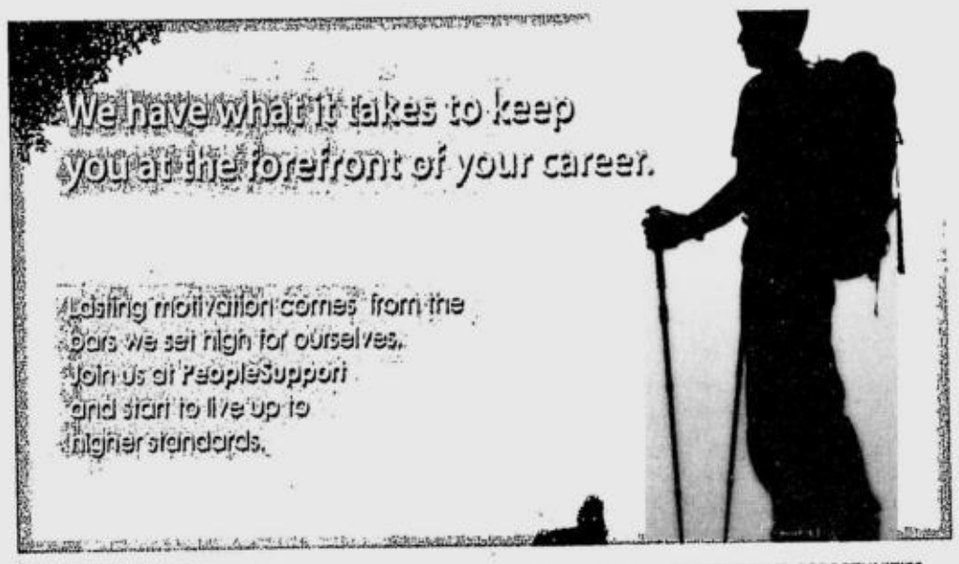

WHO IS PEOPLESUPPORT?
PeopleSupport, Inc. is one of the largest leading US-based business process outsourcing (BPO) providers in the Philippines. Approximately 9,000 employees are spread out among world-class facilities in Manila, Cebu and Costa Rica, and its headquarters in Los Angeles, California, USA.

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HR Hotline (02) 753-2600
manilajobs@peoplesupport.com

Cebu City
PeopleSupport Cebu
e-Office 1, AsiaTown IT Park
Monday to Saturday,
9:00am to 5:00pm
HR Hotline: (032) 234-8222
cebujobs@peoplesupport.com

Bagulo City
PeopleSupport Bagulo
PeopleSupport Building,
Harrison Road, Bagulo City
bagulojobs@people-support.com

Davao City
B-1 Luisa Avenue Square
Jacinto Extension
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9:00am to 6:00pm
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Indicate position in the subject line.

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Senior Report Developer
Data Architect

FINANCE
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Timekeeping Assistant (Manila/Cebu)
Payroll Assistant
System Accountant

OPERATIONS
Program Director

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5 Floor Supervisors • 3 SEO Analysts • 2 Network Administrators
2 Senior php Programmers • 1 Content Writer • 2 Recruitment Associates

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He or she is responsible for specific campaign/program and team, setting performance standards, proactively managing the development and retention of staffs and ensuring professional skills, motivation and customer service results. (Salary range: 30-60k monthly depending on qualification and previous job experience)

Requirements: Bachelor's degree of a 4 or 5-year course • Minimum of 2 years work experience in an outsourcing industry particularly in operations development, coaching, and mentoring subordinates management • Demonstrated experience of client & customer service performance • Analytical problem solving & cost-effective decision making skills • Strong people, team management, and leadership skills preferably in a multi-cultural corporate environment • Strong business development, negotiation, forecasting, closing and influencing skills • Ability to handle multiple projects simultaneously • Ability to deal with changing priorities to complete tasks in a short period of time • Exceptional time management and organizational skills • STRONG SALES EXPERIENCE FROM PREVIOUS COMPANY IS A PLUS!

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  - Willing to be assigned in various construction projects
  - With good quality leadership attitude, honest

Interested applicant may call 912-7201
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OPENINGS IN U-BELT
Recruitment Associate
Recruitment Specialists

OPENINGS IN ALABANG
Operations Managers - Customer Service Account
Team Leaders - Customer Service with Sales Account (for pooling)
Inbound Customer Care Representatives
Recruitment Coordinator - Statistics & Documentations
Recruitment Associate (Project Based)
Transaction Monitoring Evaluators (sample and evaluate end-user accuracy & conformance to quality standards)

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ALABANG OFFICE
Block 44, Northgate Cyberzone, Muntinlupa City
(02) 758-1688

CEBU BANAWA OFFICE
R. Arcenas St., Arcenas Estate, Banawa Hills, Cebu City
(032) 416-5810

CEBU ASIATOWN IT PARK OFFICE
11/F I2 Bldg, Asiatown IT Park, Lahug, Cebu City
(032) 411 - 9200

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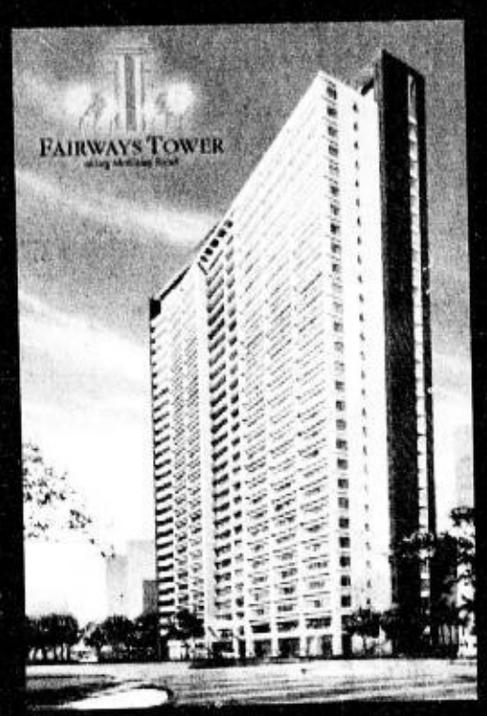

If you are creative, resourceful, energetic, confident, competitive and want the chance to EARN MILLIONS YEARLY, then join us as a:

PROPERTY CONSULTANT(S)

- Not more than 30 years old, male or female
- Graduate of any four year course from a reputable school
- Possess excellent communication skills
- Has pleasing personality and can deal effectively with clients
- Selling experience is an advantage
- Fresh graduates/entry level applicants are welcome to apply

INCENTIVE: Possible trips in U.S., Europe and Asia for proven closers.

ONE DAY RECRUITMENT for PROPERTY CONSULTANT(S) is scheduled on **MAY 16, 2007, Wednesday** from 10:00am to 4:00pm at the **6/F RFM Corporate Center Pioneer cor Sheridan Sts., Mandaluyong City.**

Interested applicants may contact (02) 631-8101 loc 7433 or text (0917) 853-6539 c/o April Tani

PROJECT ENGINEER **

- Candidate must not be over 29 years of age and must be a licensed Civil Engineer
- With at least 2 to 3 years related working experience
- Knowledgeable in scheduling, costing and has experience in horizontal and vertical constructions
- Must be computer literate especially in MS Office, MS Project , AUTOCAD and other related software
- Willing to do field work (mostly in South Luzon Area)
- Analytical, self-motivated, flexible and result-oriented; with excellent communication and interpersonal skills

**Interested applicants who are under board/ without professional license must have at least minimum of 5 years related working experience

BROKER(S)

- Male or female
- With proven track record in real estate sales
- Will market and sell residential properties
- Possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Must be flexible, aggressive, enterprising and a team player

PROJECT ARCHITECT

- Candidate must be a graduate of BS in Architecture; Professional license preferred
- Male, at least 24 years of age
- With at least 2 to 3 years related working experience in horizontal and vertical projects
- Must be computer literate especially in MS Office, MS Project, AUTOCAD, 3D VIZ or Studio Max and can render perspectives in these programs
- Willing to do field work (mostly in South Luzon Area)
- Organize, creative, result-oriented and with high motivation in supervising housing projects
- With above average communication and interpersonal skills

Respondents are requested to send their resumes and recent 2x2 photo to the following addresses:

Via email : ptl.hrd@philtown.com.ph
Via mail : (please indicate position on the envelope)

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Please come in proper business attire and bring your resume, transcript of records, and latest 2"x2" colored picture.

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CYPRESS SEMICONDUCTOR PHILIPPINE HEADQUARTERS, LTD.
Regional Operating Headquarters - ROHQ

The ROHQ was created to centralize Cypress support services to ensure consistent processes, to implement "best" practices, and to achieve competitive edge.

Our Mission

To provide world class value to our customers as measured by our accuracy, response and resolution time, and costs.

Supporting Cypress Semiconductor Worldwide, a diversified, broadline suppliers with a communications focus. Cypress has created some of the world's leading semiconductor products that support key communications businesses.

Cypress has aligned its organization along five market-focused segments: Wireless Terminals; Wireless Infrastructure; Wide Area Networks; Storage Networks and Solar Power.

Cypress Semiconductor is a global supplier of high-performance integrated circuits. Cypress offerings include the PSoC® Programmable System-on-Chip™, USB controllers, general-purpose programmable clocks and memories. Cypress also offers wired and wireless connectivity solutions ranging from its WirelessUSB™ radio system-on-chip, to West Bridge™ and EZ-USB® FX2LP controllers that enhance connectivity and performance in multimedia handsets. Our strategic customer-leaders in the data communications, networking, telecommunications, and personal computer markets. Our global headquarter is located at San Jose California. Cypress trades on the NYSE under the ticker symbol CY. Visit Cypress online at **www.cypress.com.**

At Cypress, we strive to surpass current standards in the world's most competitive high tech arena. We take career growth of our people seriously. We provide training incentive in all levels. We reward success and hard work with competitive salary, tuition refund, employee bonuses fixed 14.5 months pay, performance profit sharing, stocks grant, and a flexible benefits package.

Candidates must be willing to travel and work in the night shift

At Cypress, winning is our business and we only hire the best.

IT INTERNAL AUDITOR SENIOR (Code: NRE- ROHQ) New Position – Day Shift

Job Description:
IT Auditor - Responsible for assessing the internal control environment for accounting information systems and critical business processes - Performs review of application systems, business processes, operating system security and general computer controls - Studies and evaluates risks and related controls of computerized information systems - Conducts management testing of key internal controls within IT environment to support Sarbanes-Oxley section 404 certification. This includes (a) preparing test plans for key controls; (b) executing test plans; and (c) documenting results and recommending remediation steps for management to implement, where necessary. The position is responsible for completing fieldwork, explaining audit exceptions, recommending operational enhancements or efficiencies, documenting procedures, and preparing reports. - Benchmarking of business processes against best practices - Analyzes server systems and multi-platform systems while providing detailed reports on the vulnerabilities of these systems

Job Specific Requirements:
Familiar with financial controls and have been involved in designing or reviewing business process controls in the capacity of a business process analyst, internal or external auditor - Excellent understanding of internal control systems and have sound experience in identifying control and process improvement opportunities in key financial reporting systems - Excellent interpersonal and communication skills - Highly motivated and resourceful, and thrive on challenges in a very fast-paced environment where quality and speed are of the essence - Familiarity with general computer controls, major accounting financial system (e.g., Oracle, PeopleSoft, etc.), and controls standards (Sarbanes Oxley, COSO, COBIT) - Strong project management skills with the ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously - Flexible and self-starter possessing intellectual curiosity - Familiarity with mainframe, server security and control issues, Unix, Windows NT, and/or networks - Willingness to travel and occasionally work night shift during certain audits - Excellent computer application skills (Excel, Word, & Access, Project, PowerPoint, Visio) - The IT Auditor will have extensive interaction with management at all levels of the organization. - The IT Auditor will work under the supervision of the Internal Audit Manager and must be able to work in a team environment as well as independently.

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
More than 3 years related experience - Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Business Administration, Management Information Systems or a related field - Achievement or the active pursuit of one or more of the following professional certifications is not required but an advantage: Certified Public Accountant (CPA) / Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) / Certified Internal Auditor (CIA).

TREASURY ANALYST - ACCOUNTANT 2 (Code: HHC- ROHQ) Night Shift

Job Description:
Responsible for the daily Treasury accounting transactions, close process, and reporting and analytical activities, along with documentation and re-engineering of treasury business processes. Interfaces with audit and various finance departments as well as employees throughout Cypress. Major contributor to Cypress Treasury's daily cash planning, cash forecasting, banking and investment reporting & analysis as well as support other treasury business processes including foreign exchange, financing, and accounting of deferred compensation plan.

Job Specific Requirements:
Qualified candidates will have a minimum of 4 years of Treasury Accounting or related experience. • A B.S. or B.A. Degree in Finance/Accounting/Business or CPA or equivalent is required, and with an MBA is preferred. • Hands on accounting knowledge & audit interface experience are needed. • Familiarity in FAS 115 and FAS 133 requirements is a requisite. • Detail treasury knowledge and experience is required including banking, cash management, cash forecasting & investments. Exposure to foreign exchange hedging, financing, insurance and other treasury responsibilities would be ideal. • Excellent communication and analytical skills are required. The ability to work under pressure with a high level of quality is critical. • In addition, this person must be proficient in computing skills including Microsoft Excel, Word & PowerPoint. • A working knowledge of Access, Oracle, banking systems and/or treasury workstation software is also a plus. • Candidate must be willing to report during night shift (with premium compensation).

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
Bachelor's degree in Business Administration major in accounting. Public accounting experience or two to three years in the Semiconductor Industry as an Accountant or Financial Analyst. Background in Treasury or investment accounting is required. Responsible for the daily Treasury accounting transactions, close process, and reporting and analytical activities, along with documentation and re-engineering of treasury business processes. Interfaces with audit and various finance departments as well as employees throughout Cypress. Major contributor to Cypress Treasury's daily cash planning, cash forecasting, banking and investment reporting & analysis as well as support other treasury business processes including foreign exchange, financing, and accounting of deferred compensation plan.

ACCOUNTANT SENIOR – INTERNATIONAL FINANCE TEAM
(Code IDE - ROHQ) Day Shift

Job Description:
The position is also responsible in maintaining the comparative analysis of Distributors inventory worldwide (US, Asia Pac and Europe) to give Cypress Finance users the means to pro actively determine variances and correct the variances on a timely basis. The position is also responsible in the implementation of Disti analytics and communicating with management the quarterly results of Disti operations. The position is a key participant in driving process improvements. Details – Distribution 1. Implementation of a Distributor Inventory Asset Management Process o Tracking of weekly unit and $ inventory o Tracking of weekly and quarter to date reconciliation differences o Tracking issues and driving process changes were necessary o Tracking sell-in Disti inventory and weeks of inventory o Tracking NDS GM by Disti and Region o Comparison of Disti GM to CY GM o Etc. 2. Key contributor/participant in the various Distribution Channel Process Improvement teams 3. Communicating and resolving various issues with worldwide distributors 4. Working closely with AR to resolve various AR Disti issues 5. Ensure adequate internal (SOX) controls are operating effectively to reduce the financial reporting risk in the Distribution area. 6. Implementation of Disti analytics and reporting packages and communicating with management the quarterly results of Disti Ops.

Job Specific Requirements:
• Smart, self motivated, team player who enjoys being a "difference maker" • Track record of high performance in a fast paced, challenging environment. • Strong verbal and written communications skills and the ability to analyze and present financial data to Senior Management. • Strong accounting background with the ability to account for complex accounting issues • Detail oriented • Ability to grow the position into a Manager role with direct reports • Does not accept status quo and is always looking for ways to improve existing processes • Diligent and persistent approach to resolving issues and reconciling items

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
• 5-7 years of financial and accounting experience, preferably in a semiconductor or high-technology company • BS in Finance or Accounting. MBA or CPA a plus • Experience presenting analysis and issues to senior management • Strong Excel skills • Strong written and verbal communication skills

ACCOUNTANT SENIOR - ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE
(Code TGR - ROHQ) Night Shift

Job Description:
Under supervision of the AR Manager, performs various accounting functions, supervises and directs the AR Analysis section in accounting and reporting system activities such as credit/debit memo matching, invoicing, accurate financial transaction posting, and financial report and statement preparation. Will ensure that customer statement of accounts are clean, accounted for and up to date.

Job Specific Requirements:
Thorough knowledge of accounting guidelines, procedures and generally accepted accounting practices. General knowledge of all Accounts Receivable policies and procedures. Strong mathematical and analytical skills for monitoring accounting records and resolving AR problems. Good supervisory skills for directing and coordinating accounting staff. Ability to monitor and evaluate worker performance establishes work priorities and delegate tasks, and train staff in proper accounting procedures.

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy or its equivalent. Exposure to Accounts Receivable function and preferably with the consignment /distributor set up. Computer literate with ability to utilize word processing, spreadsheet software and Oracle 11i

ACCOUNTANT 1 & 2, ACCOUNTS PAYABLE TEAM
(Code TGR- ROHQ) Night Shift

Job Description:
Review, record, pay, close and reconcile payables transactions and prepare necessary reports within accounting guidelines and practices, government regulations, and company policies, procedures and specific instructions in order to provide services with quality that exceeds expectation to our customers such as the suppliers, buyers, requestors and the management. Assist AP manager in the overall supervision of AP department, ensure compliance to SOX controls, prepares forecast and metrics.

Job Specific Requirements:
Good communication skills - oral and written, knowledge in office applications like excel, PowerPoint, word processor, Preferably with Oracle applications exposure. Familiarity with the impact/effect of basic payable transaction. Willing and fit to work at night.

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
Bachelor's degree in Business Administration major in accounting

PAYROLL ACCOUNTANT 2 - GLOBAL PAYROLL (Code EEN- ROHQ) Night Shift

Job Description:
Processing of CSC Payroll to include but not limited to: 1) Processing of Exempt Employees' PTO and Floating Holiday Requests 2) Processing Payroll checks; normal, bonuses, term checks 3) Uploading Interfaces: HR, Creative Benefits, Ceridian Time & Attendance, Prudential 4) ProBusiness Modifications, Additions and Audit 5) Execution of instructions from HR Business Partners 6) Payroll Reports to Site Controllers 7) Respond to issues submitted to the Payroll Helpdesk 8) Reviews employee timecards 9) Acts as the most senior payroll staff in the absence of the payroll manager.

Job Specific Requirements:
Proficient in the use of electronic spreadsheets, customized computer systems and other computer applications. Excellent communication skills in English willing to work the night shift. Has people skills and leadership qualities.

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
College graduate major in Accounting 3-5 years payroll experience, last 2 in supervisory capacity

FINANCIAL ANALYST - ACCOUNTANT 2
(Code OSJ- ROHQ) Night Shift

Job Description:
Position is a Cost Analyst in support of the World Class Cost effort being driven by ACC/FGC in San Jose. Develop and maintain reporting tools to support the Work Class Cost effort. The initial focus is in the area of DM to GM leakages. Standardize reporting tools for the accounting of commodity cost reductions across all divisions. Support the WCC Team as follows: audit the integrity of data presented by cost reduction teams, preparation of weekly reports & graphs using a standard format for all divisions.

Job Specific Requirements:
Employee must be willing to work night shift in order to have large overlap of hours with San Jose staff. Must have excellent excel and power point skills. Strong communications skills both verbal and written. Employee must be able to travel to the US for training and on an as need basis.

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
B.S. Degree in Acctg or Finance. CPA desirable. Minimum of five years of work experience. Experience in semiconductor industry desirable.

What other related positions would you consider to fill this job?
Cost Accountants, Cost Analysts, Financial Analysts, Internal or External Auditors and Industrial Engineers

FINANCIAL ANALYST - COST ACCOUNTING TEAM
(Code QUG- ROHQ) Night Shift

Job Description:
As SSC Cost Accountant, the position will be part of the team that is responsible for: Quarterly Standard Price Calculation starting from collection of parameters up to consolidation and upload of final prices. Monthly Standard Price Update. Cost & Inventory movement booking during month end closing. Cost & Inventory Reporting. Account reconciliation and analysis. System and Report validation and testing. Inventory Variance research. Compliance with Audit and SOX requirement. Participate in process improvement initiative.

Job Specific Requirements:
Advance Microsoft Excel knowledge, knowledge in Access an advantage. Basic knowledge on internet, ERP systems especially related to Cost and Inventory. Basic to Working knowledge in standard costing and inventory accounting. Strong analytical and problem solving skills a plus. Keen eye on details especially in validation and testing of new system and reports. Team player

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
University degree in Finance/Economics/Business admin with a major in accounting • Minimum of 1-2 years experience in Cost and Inventory Accounting gained from a manufacturing environment.

HUMAN RESOURCES, IT, FINANCE & ADMIN ASSISTANT
(Code TFT- ROHQ) Day Shift

Job Description:
Handles Staffing & College Recruiting. Facilitation of hiring process. Calls applicants, Conducts background checking, Arranges interview schedules, Prepares hiring book. Prepares ID and facilitates new hire work tools. Coordinates University visits and academe linkage. Facilitates job posting with Jobstreet. Employee Relations: coordination of tactical requirements for employee programs. Monthly birthday bash, Summer Outing, Livelihood Program, Anniversary, First Friday Mass, Community outreach, Christmas Party etc. Quality Records Management. Maintains 201 files, 202 files, HR reports, Pre-employment requirements, etc., medicine reimbursements. Tracks temps probationary employment, IPR, CSFs, Performance Evaluations. Handles day to day HR coordination and communications: Ugnayan, All employees' meeting, and update of bulletin boards.

Handles coordination of training. Reservation of rooms, registration, evaluation, payment of training fees, meal reservation, Shuttle travel reservations etc. Release and collects HR customer satisfaction survey forms on staffing and employee services. Handles employee clearance and termination reports to the Department of Labor. Coordinates Annual Medical exams and Annual Executive medical check up of Managers with hospitals. Other tasks that maybe assigned to support HR Group in SSC. Admin Function to support Managers.

Other Duties and Responsibilities:
Answers Telephone. Answers in coming mails, internal and external, local and global. Handles Purchase Order (supplies/resources). Coordinates requirements of Cypress SSC guests. Handles meeting schedules, conference bookings, meals for day shift activities. Ensures photocopier & fax machines are working and with supplies. Coordinates travel funds of traveling employees. Coordinates petty cash. Facilitates housekeeping for day shift. Assists in organizing All Employees' Meeting, Ugnayan and maintains the employee bulletin boards. Travel Processing - Coordinates travel documentation requirements for SSC employees. Government Reporting - prepares and submits compliance report to the Department of Labor and Government relations. Assist in organizing social initiatives of Cypress SSC such as medical mission and other community programs.

Job Specific Requirements:
Must have at least 6 months to one-year hands on exposure in Human resources in the area of Staffing, Compensation & Benefits, HRIS, Employee & Labor Relations, Organizational Development, Training & Development. Must be computer literate. Highly analytical. Must be willing to work night shift from time to time. Must be willing to travel. Excellent communication skills. Very good in problem solving and process improvement and **must be approachable and customer oriented.**

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
BS Psychology, Management or Bachelor Science or Computer Science graduate. Must have worked in multi-national company.

BUSINESS SYSTEMS ANALYST 1 – GLOBAL PROCUREMENT
(Code KIT- ROHQ) Night Shift

Job Description:
Project management for Purchasing, Inventory, and Supply Chain initiatives. Identify Purchasing & Inventory Management business process flows and required process changes, as well as, system customizations required. Provide reports and metrics to purchasing and stores. Provide training & documentation to support new business systems processes. Responsible for creation, tracking, and reporting of detailed work plans and gaining project commitments from all project stakeholders. Primary liaison to ITG organization -Assist in the development of business requirements, specifications and business case analysis. Develop 'to be' business planning requirements, use cases, and test acceptance criteria. -Represent Materials Management/Purchasing in IT project prioritization processes. Project lead for selected development activities. Ensure user requirements are accurately communicated and understood by ITG and software providers. Define business requirements and corresponding system specifications, develop accurate time estimates and create clear and concise documentation for various phases of the project implementation life cycle. Collaborate with various teams and individuals to deliver technology business solutions to contribute to the company's ability to meet business challenges. Conduct business analysis: gather, organize and analyze data on enterprise-wide functional requirements. Accurately document requirements and estimate team analysis required; develop detailed work plans for self and team members. Knowledgeable in PC (MS Windows, MS Office suite, MS Visio, MS Project) desktop environment for word processing, spreadsheet, project management and business presentation needs. Experience with SQL/PLSQL, Oracle Purchasing, Oracle Manufacturing, and Brio Query Tool desired.

Job Specific Requirements:
Demonstrated ability to lead and manage multiple tasks simultaneously. Must be able to identify systematic problems, formulate and implement solutions. Become an expert on the Oracle purchasing and inventory system and overall purchasing and inventory business process. Ability to work independently and drive project to completion. Ability to present ideas, results and recommendation in a group setting. Ability to clearly communicate project and status on a regular basis.

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
College grad -2-5 years of work experience in purchasing, inventory or business systems or manufacturing.

IT SUPERVISOR – ITG MANUFACTURING EXECUTION SYSTEM
(Code VRT- ROHQ) Day Shift

Job Description:
Interacts with customers for corporate finance and cost accounting IT projects - Prioritizes projects for programmers supporting corporate finance and corporate planning - Ensures that the team meets critical metrics both for customer and IT - Reviews and recommends improvements on the existing manual procedures and selected policies to ensure that the computerization application are optimized and implemented effectively and efficiently.

Job Specific Requirements:
IT experience preferably programming in Focus and/or Informatica - Willing to split time between manufacturing plant in Cavite and Regional Office in Fort Bonifacio - Must be willing to work night shifts occasionally to support month and quarterly end transactions.

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
BS ECE, Computer Engineering or Computer Science - Must have at least two to three years working in the semiconductor industry. One or two years experience managing a group of two to three individuals.

IT ENGINEER 2 ITG MANUFACTURING EXECUTION SYSTEM
(Code VRT- ROHQ) Day Shift

Job Description:
Provides high-level production support in terms of monitoring, maintaining and providing user access to the system. - Manages small project including schedule, resources and risks and tracks project to completion per approved project plan - Documents all phases of system development. Prepares and consolidates the standard reference materials for use by the IT support staff and users including test cases to ensure accuracy, efficiency and error free programs. - Installs, implements including provision of training on usage, monitors software/system in production after deployment. - Writes, codes and modifies programs based on defined specifications of customers, including functional, unit and integration testing. - Integrates the software application by conducting integration plans/tests, and conducting integration/regression and system test prior to obtaining customer approval. - Coordinates to Operations Group all hardware, software and other requirements of the system, both during development and implementation.

Job Specific Requirements:
Provide in-house Focus Support for Cypress worldwide (RPU#111), which functions as: 1. Troubleshooting, fixing and resolving issues related to Informatica, Brio and FOCUS reporting. 2. Monitor and generate Informatica and Focus reports required by Corporate Sales and Marketing, Finance, Planning and Manufacturing group. - Provide in-house EDI support to all CY EDI customers including provision for migration to Webmethods technology - Works as Developer for all Webmethods and or Informatica Migration projects

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
Education: - Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Electronics and Communications Engineering or - Equivalent training in Information Technology related courses. Work Experience: - Requires 3 or more years of experience in Software Development using any of the ff programming languages: JAVA, Informatica, SQL, HTML, Webmethods, Oracle Developer, and Focus - Proficient in Systems Development Life Cycle, structured coding, systems analysis and design, flow-charting and project management and implementation. - Knowledgeable in finance, sales and marketing, procurement, human resources and customer relation systems/application processes preferred.

IT ENGINEER 2, ITG SALES & MARKETING INFO. SYSTEM TEAM
(Code TIX- ROHQ) Day Shift

Job Description:
Qualified candidate will be responsible for the design, development and implementation of web-based applications specific to supporting Sales & Marketing group. He will be responsible for creating new or edit existing portlets of CY Portal (http://www.cypress.com/) applying coding standards and techniques of Cypress IT. He is expected to write new complex programs/portlets, working with basic applications system designs and specifications by utilizing standard procedures and techniques; prepare charts, and logic diagrams needed in system analysis and develop complete documentation and specification of program code. He will be involved in the following IT projects: Cypress.COM & ProChannel AOP projects.

Job Specific Requirements:
Junior/Senior Java Developer: Good knowledge in PL/SQL and database programming. Relational DB analysis and design. Has experience in static/dynamic HTML, Javascript, ASP/JSP. XML is a plus. Working experience in java-based applications. Struts/JSF knowledge is a plus but not required. YUI or user interface design knowledge is a plus but not required. Senior requires 3-5 years of experience in J2EE (JSP/Servlet/EJB)

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
BS degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Information Technology or related field.

What other related positions would you consider to fill this job?
Web Developer with ASP/Java experience.

IT ENGINEER 1 & 2 – ITG GLOBAL HELP DESK SUPPORT TEAM
(Code IJO- ROHQ)

Job Description:
To provide accurate and efficient technical assistance 24x7 over-the-phone. To provide assistance to all users with regards to their concern. To provide customer advocacy: case management, communications and escalation. To be able to support and educate user over the phone with regards to their concern Restoring an certain problem to normal operation) - both applications and operations.

Job Specific Requirements:
Good oral and written communication skills. Adaptable to shifting schedule. Analytical ability and Sound common sense. Able to render overtime, adaptable into shifting schedule and on call. Ability to probe problems based on symptoms. Must have working knowledge of applications development tools (C++, UNIX, MS SQL) Must be able to work effectively in a team environment.

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
B.S. degree in BSCoE, BSCS, ECE, Computer Info Tech, 6 months as a Applications Support Engineer experience or similar capacity from a customer service company

What other related positions would you consider to fill this job?
Application Support

IT ENGINEER 1 & 2 – NEW PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT INFO. SYSTEM
(Code LTQ-ROHQ)

Job Description:
Qualified candidate will be responsible for the analysis, design, development and implementation of web-based applications specific to supporting Sales & Marketing group. He will be responsible for creating new or edit existing portlets of CY Portal (http://www.cypress.com/) following the coding and documentation standards of the IT organization. He is expected to write new complex programs/portlets, working with basic applications system designs and specifications by utilizing standard procedures and techniques; prepare charts, and logic diagrams needed in system analysis, and develop complete documentation and specification of program code. Basic responsibilities include QA, FMEA, and problem solving using 8D Methodology. Other tasks include supporting the ProChannel Application - a Sales & Marketing CRM tool used by Cypress sales, representatives and distributors worldwide.

Job Specific Requirements:
Junior Java Developer: Good knowledge in PL/SQL and database programming. Relational DB analysis and design. Has experience in static/dynamic HTML, JavaScript, ASP/JSP. XML is a plus. Working experience in Java-based applications. Struts knowledge is a plus but not required. Senior requires 3-5 years of experience in J2EE (JSP/Servlet/EJB). Java Certified is a plus but not a requirement.

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
BS in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Information Technology or related field.

What other related positions would you consider to fill this job ?
IT Engineer with java programming experience.

IT ENGINEERS 1& 2 – NEW PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT INFO. SYSTEM
(Code GLI - ROHQ)

Job Description:
Qualified candidate will be responsible for the design, development, and implementation of web-based applications, specific to NPDIS applications/systems (Java platform). Candidate will be assigned to AOP project(s) as defined by CORE and DESIGN DEV. Currently, no resource is available for AOP projects such as AR System, PM Task Force, PM for PE/TE Enhancement and NPD One Page Bill.

Job Specific Requirements:
Junior/Senior Java Developer. Good knowledge in PL/SQL and database programming. Knowledgeable in relational database analysis and design, optimization is a plus. Has experience in static/dynamic HTML, Javascript, JSP-Servlet. XML is a plus. Working experience in java-based applications. Struts and/or JSF framework knowledge is a plus but not required. Senior requires 3-5 years of experience in J2EE (JSP/Servlet/EJB).

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
BS in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Information Technology or related field.

IT ENGINEER 2 - ITG SSC QUALITY INFORMATION SYSTEM TEAM
(Code ONS - ROHQ)

Job Description:
Qualified candidate will be responsible for the design, development, and implementation of web-based applications, specific to QIS applications/systems (Java platform). Candidate will be assigned to AOP project(s) as defined by CORE and QUALITY DEV.

Job Specific Requirements:
Junior/Senior Java Developer. Good knowledge in PL/SQL and database programming. Knowledgeable in relational database analysis and design, optimization is a plus. Has experience in static/dynamic HTML, Javascript, JSP-Servlet. XML is a plus. Working experience in java-based applications. Struts knowledge is a plus but not required. Senior requires 3-5 years of experience in J2EE (JSP/Servlet/EJB).

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
BS in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Information Technology or related field.

What other related positions would you consider to fill this job?
IT Engineer with java programming experience.

Interested applicants are requested to submit their resumés (in word format) to:

rohq-sscjob@cypress.com

or mail to:

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ABB Turbo Systems inaugurates new Manila service station

THE ABB TURBO SYSTEMS, LIMITED, manufacturer of turbochargers for diesel engines, has inaugurated its new Manila Service Station in Km. 20 South Superhighway, Sucat, Parañaque City on April 11, 2007.

Measuring around 900 sq.m., the new service station is ABB's renewed commitment for power and productivity to the world as 75% of diesel engine's power relies on one vital component – the turbocharger.

ABB develops series of small turbochargers for modern high-speed diesel engines, small medium-speed diesel engines and gas engines, which are being used in diesel cogeneration power plants, as auxilliary engines, in gensets, in locomotives, in heavy mining vehicles, and in shipping vessels.

Presidential Assistant on Maritime Affairs, Honorable Generoso Mamaril, who also graced the inauguration, attested to the 100% reliability and effectivity of turbocharger equipment being used in ocean-going vessels.

"As a chief (marine) engineer myself, I know how important turbocharger works in our engine. With this new facility and a training program being conducted by ABB turbocharger management headed by Chito F.C. Majabague, I think we will gain more knowledge and expertise in handling sophisticated high-powered diesel engine, such as that of ABB turbocharger," the presidential protocol said.

Magnus Wibling, president and country manager of ABB Philippines, said, "It is critical for you that your equipment is always dependable, reliable, and that crucial time in your businesses, can be relied to you one hundred percent."

This is one of the reasons why ABB Turbocharger has 80 addresses around the world – to service its clientele whenever, wherever they are needed 24-hours a day.

Said Dino Capanni, Senior General Manager of ABB Turbo Systems in Switzerland, "Excellent products also are not already enough to ensure customer satisfaction. We have to take care of our products over the entire lifetime wherever they are used in the world. And we have to make sure that we can quickly provide, the services that our customers expect whenever they need them."

The Manila turbocharger service station conforms to the uniformed standards set as those existing stations in Europe, the Americas, Asia, and the Middle East and Africa.

ABB Service Station

It houses 600sq.m. workshop equipped with state-of-the-art facilities which is vital in servicing its clientele, and a 300sq.m. office space including training room for seminars and trainings programs ABB conducts for its clienteles.

Capanni furthered that the establishment of Manila Service Station is a fulfillment of promise to their customers – getting close to them as possible and working hard to make their facilities always the state-of-the-art; a move that will ensure meeting the meticulous demands of its customers in the changing world.

Wibling said the turbocharger service is one of the major cornerstones of their business here in the Philippines and that the investment they have launched is a very important event for ABB.

In his speech at the inaugural, Swiss Ambassador H.E. Peter Sutter recalled that the manufacturing of the turbo charger is part of the proud industrial history of his country – Switzerland.

According to him, more than 100 years ago, the first two industrially manufactured turbochargers were delivered at that time by Brown Boveri and Company (BBC).

It was in 1949 when the autonomous turbocharger department and factory was established by BBC. In 1988, BBC joined hands with Asea Corporation of Sweden to become what is now, ABB.

1989 saw the foundation of ABB Turbo Systems Limited, which today is the increasing Turbocharger manufacturer of medium size and large diesel engines.

Like any other company, the ambassador revealed that the ABB in the Philippines had to deal with some difficult moment in the recent past. It was in 2002 when ABB was on the brink of bankruptcy due to some unfortunate coincidiing incidence.

But thanks to the new leadership of ABB! Within three years, Ambassador Sutter said ABB managed to achieve a successful turnaround through rigorous measures and ABB emerged like Phoenix from the ashes and that it is stronger than ever now.

ABB (www.abb. com) is a leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility and industry customers to improve their performance while lowering environmental impact. The ABB Group of companies operates in around 100 countries and employs 107,000 people.

Sales tactics revealed

THIS RARE SEMINAR COULD BE THE turning point of your salespeople in selling. Discover the unconventional tools and techniques that will help empower your people and enable them to become more productive. If your people will grasp even half of what will be taught in this session, there will be a remarkable change in their performance. Don't miss this important event on May 31, 1–5 p.m. at Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, Ortigas

This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles, Inc., a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for more information / reservation. Limited seats only.

Teleperformance opens new jobs in Metro Manila and Bacolod

TELEPERFORMANCE, AN ENTITY OF TELEperformance SR a French-based CRM (Customer Resource Management) firm has recently announced the addition of 1450 employment positions in the Philippines. The majority of the new jobs will be in the Metro Manila area with 1150 available in its Ortigas-based operations and an additional 300 positions available within the Bacolod operation.

Teleperformance Philippines was established in 1993 in the Ortigas Business Center as one of the original call centers providing domestic support and services. As a piece of the international Teleperformance family, Teleperformance USA began relocating work to the Philippines from the US, Australia and other off-shore locations in 2003. Since that time, operations have grown from several hundred employees to more than 5,500 Filipino employees located in three locations in the Philippines. "As Teleperformace looks to expand its local workforce it shows just how pleased our clients continue to be with the Philippines and the quality of the workforce," said Nathan May, Regional Vice President.

Serving in 42 countries around the world with 263 contact centers and more than 67,000 employees, Teleperformance is the world wide coleader in Contact Center Outsourcing. Teleperformance has been providing quality customer contact solutions since 1978 and is publicly traded on the Euronext 5180. The original executive management team who launched Teleperformance remains in place today and has helped lead the company to an industry best 5A1 D&B rating. Teleperformance's commitment to employee growth and development while providing consistent support and performance management has been a key to the phenomenal growth and stability in the Philippines and world wide.

With the addition of these 1450 jobs in the Philippines come a residual 175+ support and management openings. "With a preference to promote from within, Teleperformance provides a tremendous career path for current as well as future employees here in the Philippines and internationally as well" added May.

For applications, Manila Recruitment Center is located at Level 3, EDSA Central Pavilion, Mandaluyong City. Hotline number is (02) 6377111.

Bacolod Recruitment Center is located at the Luxur Place (former Bacolod Convention Plaza and Hotel) Magsaysay Ave., Bacolod City. Hotline is (034) 4338167.

Be a licensed private detective

CITIZEN TRUTH VERIFIER ACADEMY, INC, A subsidiary of Truth Verifier Systems, Inc – awarded as the Best Private Detective Agency by the Philippine National Police, announces it exceptional and one-of-a-kind 152-Hour Private Detective Pre-Licensing Course that would start in May 2007.

This course would indoctrinate basic and advanced education and skills in investigation and detection. Among the thought-provoking topics to be discussed are: What is Special Investigation and Detection Unit?; Criminal Justice System; RA5487 Private Detective Agency Law; Entrapment, Inducement, Pretext and Roping; Rules of Evidence, Chain Custody; Written Statement Analysis; Fraudulent Financial Transactions; Admission Techniques; Fingerprinting Analysis; Lie Detection Overview; Discreet Photo-Videography; DNA, Drug and Alcohol Testing; Electronic Countermeasures; Forgery and Counterfeiting; Computer Fraud; Credit/Background Investigation; Locating Person/Properties; Process Serving; Surveillance and Undercover; Self Defense Training; Weapons Firing; VIP Security; Personal and Physical Security; Emergency Security; and many more.

Some of the topics also include laboratory exercises. CTVAI also accepts enrollees who would like to focus on a certain subject. It also offers a 52-Hour Re-Training Course for the renewal of license to re-invigorate knowledge and skills in order to cope up modernization.

For more details, please call Biggz or Donna at 635-5929, 635-5985 or you may send your query by fax 634-7569 or email at ctvai@truthverifier.com. You can also visit our URL www.truthverifier.com.

Accounting for Non-Accountants seminar set

THIS IS ESPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR NON-accounting managers, supervisors and personnel. Whether you like it or not, you have to work with some issues in basic accounting. Topics include: The accounting cycle; Adjusting journal entries; Financial Statements like Balance Sheet and Income Statements; The Cash Flow Statement and Financial Statements. This program is slated on Wednesday to Friday, May 23, 24 and 25, 1–5 p.m. at Holiday Inn Galleria, Ortigas.

The workshop will have as its resource lecturer Ms. Cecile Catahan, Consultant, Trainer and Certified Public Accountant.

This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles, Inc, a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for more information / reservation. Limited seats only.

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* Reduced from Php89 Million to Php18 Million BIR Tax Assessment for BIR Supply Oilfield Services; Averted BIR Tax assessment of Php500 Million for JD Legaspi Corporation; Assisted Wyeth Philippines Corporation in obliging BIR Revenue Officers to amend Php 1Billion Tax Assessment

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- College graduate preferably with Accounting background.
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- Computer literate, organized, methodical and detail-oriented.
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Credit and Collection Assistant
- College graduate preferably with Accounting background
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- College Graduate of a 4-year Communications course (or related degree)
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- Knowledge on any or all of the following: Adobe Photoshop, Hardware/Software troubleshooting, Adobe Premiere, Windows Movie Maker, Digital Video Formats and Encoding, Flash Video
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Interested applicants may send their resumés to any of the ff: spanlilio@inquirer.com.ph, jreyes@inquirerpublications.ph, hrd@hip.ph or bring their resumé, two (2) 2x2 photos, Transcript of Records, and any valid I.D. to our office at Unit 330, Mile Long Building, Amorsolo corner Javier Streets, Makati City, from Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
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Cashiers

Also, we are now recruiting positions for our head office:

Junior/Senior Accountant

Candidates must be between the ages of 25 to 35 years old, Female. An accounting graduate, CPA preferred. With at least 2 years related work experience. Candidates must have good administrative and communication skills, flexible, highly organized, team player & can work under pressure.

Office Assistant

Candidates must be between the ages of 23 to 28 years old, Female. Has a Bachelor's Degree with similar job experience. Must have good administrative and communication skills, can work well with others, has pleasant disposition and service-oriented. Candidates must be flexible, committed, decisive and must able to cope with diverse business situations.

CV and covering letter should be sent, within 2 weeks from today, to:

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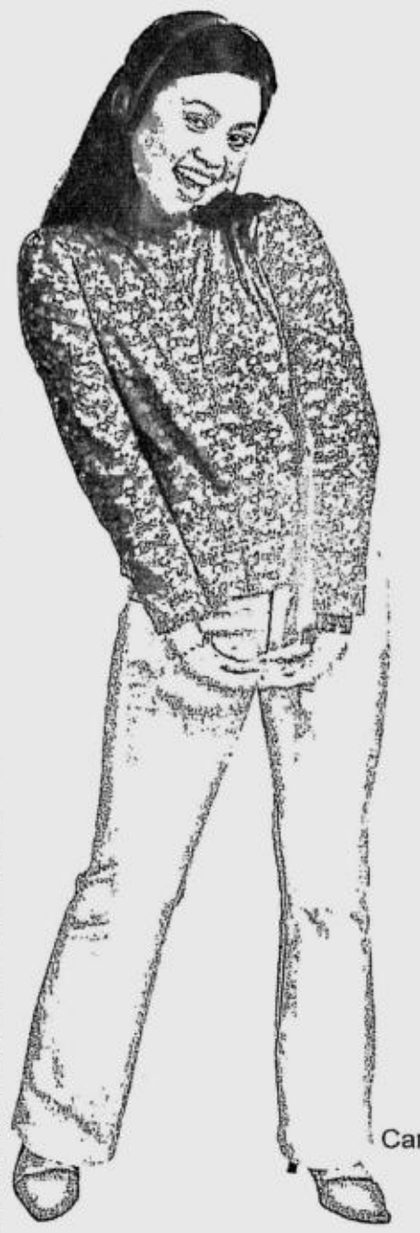

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Recruiting Coordinator
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Support Specialist

Responsibilities:
- Maintain broad and technical knowledge of product and services.
- Greet customers in a courteous, friendly, and professional manner using agreed upon procedures.
- Listen attentively to customer needs and concerns; demonstrate empathy.
- Clarify customer requirements; probe for and confirm understanding of requirements or problem.
- Meet customer requirements through first contact resolution. Minimize escalation to Tier-II support.
- Confirm customer understanding of the solution and provide additional customer education as needed.
- Prepare complete and accurate work and update customer file.
- Communicate effectively with individuals/teams in the program to ensure high quality and timely expedition of customer requests.
- Effectively transfer misdirected customer requests to an appropriate party.
- Contribute ideas to resolve problems to better serve the customer and/ or improve productivity.
- Participate in activities designed to improve customer satisfaction and business performance.
- Occasionally use decision-support tools to answer questions.
- Solve problems that may be unstructured and that may require reliance on conceptual thinking.
- Offer solutions to issues that are often non-standard/non-routine and require some clarification.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Highly enthusiastic, positive minded, service oriented individual.
- Demonstrated troubleshooting skills

Requirements:
- Direct experience and knowledge of general accounting principles is a must.
- Knowledge of Quickbooks or any ERP, CRM and Web products is a definite plus.
- A minimum of 2 years of call center (technical / customer) organization providing email and telephone support is required.
- Expert knowledge of Internet, browsers and web navigation is required

primarily involve configuration and customization of the customer's Netsuite environment. The successful candidate will be capable of working on their own initiative to interpret written and verbal specifications whilst problem solving configuration issues.

The successful candidate must have a passion for business and the technologies that run it, as well as, advanced analytical problem solving acumen. Working with aggressive timelines and a full project portfolio is required. Work will be done primarily from our Manila global service centre, however there may be some travel requirement.

Qualifications/Skills:
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- 2 to 5 years experience in systems applications consulting, either internally via an IT organization or externally with a consulting firm or software provider.
- Solid experience in change management and Business Process Mapping in support and / or in conjunction with a major IS initiative.
- Excellent understanding of common industry standard business practices as related to ERP, CRM and E-commerce.
- Excellent understanding of common industry standard business practices as related to Accounting (Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, General Ledger, Invoicing), Sales Force Management (Opportunity, Proposal, Sales Orders, Forecasting, territory management and Quotas), Inventory Management (Purchasing and Fulfillment) as well as support (Cases Management and Territory Management).
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- Successful candidates should have demonstrated experience in translating customer business requirements into workable world class business solutions, either as a software solution or a re-engineering initiative.
- Candidates should have solid client management skills and be able to work with customers to execute on an implementation plan.
- Experience with software in an ASP environment is a plus as is any experience with financial accounting, customer management, and sales force automation software. Previous consulting experience with the following applications is a solid predictor of success as a PSM at NetSuite: QuickBooks, Great Plains, SalesForce.com, Upshot, ACT, Goldmine, MAS 90, Siebel, Oracle, SAP, PeopleSoft, JD Edwards.
- Working knowledge of and experience using XML, JavaScript, HTML, Crystal and SQL is desirable.
- Experience with designing and writing html, Java and Java script for an e-commerce website.

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Implementation Consultant

(Accounting), Makati City, Philippines

Job Description:
The Implementation Consultant will be responsible for managing customer accounting configuration and customizations. This position will involve working closely with Netsuite's global project management team and

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- Must be articulate, hardworking and independent
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- Driven to succeed in the IT industry
- 1-2 years experience in sales is an advantage
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply
- Preferably female

JAVA Programmer
- Graduate of Computer Science, Computer Engineering / Information Technology
- Proficient in J2EE, EJB, JSP Platform
- At least 1-2 years of experience in JAVA Programming
- Can start immediately

Computer Programmer
- Graduate of Computer Science, Computer Engineering / Information Technology
- At least 3-5 years experience in Visual Basic
- Knowledgeable in MySQL is an advantage
- Can start immediately

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MEGAWORLD CORPORATION

Megaworld pioneered in urban townships built around a live-work-play concept such as Eastwood City, home to the first and most successful information technology park in the country. Eastwood City laid out the blueprint for the company's ongoing mega-projects in Metro Manila: Forbes Town Center in Bonifacio Global City, McKinley Hill in Fort Bonifacio, Newport City at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City, Cityplace in Binondo, Manila, and Manhattan Garden City at the Araneta Center, Quezon City.

In the last 17 years, Megaworld has launched more than 200 residential buildings, office towers, commercial centers and a hotel.

As part of our EXPANSION PROGRAM, we invite you to join our elite team of professionals:

ACCOUNTING POSITIONS:

ACCOUNTING MANAGER - URGENT
- BS Accountancy graduate, CPA
- Exposed to various works preferably in financial reporting
- Has strong background in Philippine Accounting Standards, local taxes and laws
- Has good knowledge of real estate industry
- Must be familiar with regulatory requirements (SEC and BIR)
- Knowledgeable in consolidation of financial statements
- Proactive and can comply with strict deadlines
- Has strong leadership skills and ability to manage people
- Has multi-tasking ability
- Highly analytical and likes to be challenged on the job
- 26 to 30 years old

Send your resumé to: jobs@megaworldcorp.com

ASSISTANT ACCOUNTING MANAGER - URGENT
- BS Accountancy graduate, CPA
- Exposed to various works preferably in financial reporting
- Has strong background in Philippine Accounting Standards, local taxes and laws
- Has good knowledge of real estate industry
- Must be familiar with regulatory requirements (SEC and BIR)
- Knowledgeable in consolidation of financial statements
- Proactive and can comply with strict deadlines
- Has strong leadership skills and ability to manage people
- Has multi-tasking ability
- 26 to 30 years old

Send your resumé to: jobs@megaworldcorp.com

ACCOUNTANT
- CPA
- Knowledgeable in general and investment accounting, financial statement preparation and bookkeeping
- Familiar with regulatory requirements of SEC, BIR, SSS, Philhealth and Pag-IBIG
- With strong background in real estate industry
- Female, not more than 25 years old

Send your resumé to: hr.recruitment@megaworldcorp.com

ACCOUNTING ANALYST
- BS Accountancy graduate
- Preferably a CPA
- With 2-3 years' experience in general accounting and bookkeeping
- Familiar with regulatory requirements of SEC and BIR

Send your resumé to: hr.recruitment@megaworldcorp.com

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ASSOCIATE
- BS Accountancy graduate
- With experience in accounts payable
- Knowledgeable in preparation of financial reports
- Highly analytical, can work with minimum supervision and with good communication skills
- Not more than 25 years old

Send your resume to: hr.recruitment@megaworldcorp.com

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE ASSISTANT
- BS Accountancy graduate
- Experience in accounts receivable is an advantage
- Must be proficient in MS office applications
- Attentive to details

Send your resumé to: hr.recruitment@megaworldcorp.com

BUSINESS COURSES AND MARKETING POSITIONS:

SALES MANAGER
- Must possess at least a bachelor's/college degree in Sales and Marketing or equivalent
- Preferably from an Assistant Manager/Manager level specializing in Marketing/Business Development or equivalent
- Preferably with leasing experience
- Must be able to formulate, develop and implement sales/leasing program to achieve lease/sales objectives
- Must be able to motivate and train sales/leasing staff
- With excellent communication skills
- Must be proficient in MS office applications
- Not more than 35 years old

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MARKETING OFFICER
- Must possess at least a bachelor's/college degree in sales and marketing or its equivalent
- Preferably from UP, Ateneo, DLSU, UST or UA&P
- With excellent oral and written communication skills

Send your resumé to: apply@megaworldcorp.com

LEASING OFFICER - URGENT
- Must possess at least a bachelor's/college degree in any field
- Can speak Chinese
- Applicants must be willing to work in Binondo, Manila
- With good interpersonal and communication skills
- Preferably with leasing background
- Good analytical skills

Send your resumé to: jobs@megaworldcorp.com

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SUPERVISOR
- Graduate of BS Accountancy/Business Administration/ Management or its equivalent
- With at least two years of experience in handling supervisory position
- Highly analytical, organized and people oriented
- With excellent communication skills.
- Experience in Sales and Marketing is an advantage
- Not more than 30 years old

Send your resumé to: jobs@megaworldcorp.com

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION ASSOCIATE
- Graduate of BS Accountancy/Business Administration/ Management or its equivalent
- Willing to do clerical or administrative work
- Organized and keen on details
- With excellent communication skills
- Experience in Sales and Marketing is an advantage
- Not more than 25 years old

Send your resumé to: apply@megaworldcorp.com

SENIOR COLLECTION ASSISTANT
- Graduate of BS Management/Business Administration/ Marketing or its equivalent
- At least two years' experience in collection
- Preferably with mall operations experience
- With good oral and written communication skills
- Willing to be assigned in Eastwood City, Libis, Q.C.
- Not more than 26 years old

Send your resumé to: hr.recruitment@megaworldcorp.com

MANAGEMENT ANALYST - URGENT
- With a degree in Mechanical Engineering (with or without license) preferably from UP, Ateneo, DLSU, UST or Mapua
- With good scholastic records, knowledgeable in air-conditioning, elevator and transformers

Send your resumé to: apply@megaworldcorp.com

ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST
- Graduate of Business Administration/ Management or its equivalent
- With excellent communication skills and pleasing personality
- Knowledgeable in MS Office (MS Word and Excel)
- 22-26 years old

Send your resumé to: apply@megaworldcorp.com

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE
- Graduate of BS Marketing or its equivalent
- With excellent communication skills and pleasing personality
- Must be willing to work in Taguig City
- Fresh graduates/entry level applicants are encouraged to apply
- Female, not more than 26 years old

Send your resumé to: apply@megaworldcorp.com

REVENUE ASSOCIATE - URGENT
- Graduate of BS Mathematics from UP, DLSU, UA&P and ADMU
- Female, 21-25 years old
- Background in real estate is an advantage
- With good interpersonal skills

Send your resumé to: apply@megaworldcorp.com

TREASURY ASSISTANT (Chinese Speaking) - URGENT
- Graduate of Business Administration/Management or its equivalent, preferably from UP, Ateneo, DLSU, UA&P or UST
- Can speak Chinese
- Applicants must be willing to work in Eastwood City, Libis, Q.C.
- Applicants must be Filipino citizens or must hold relevant residence status

Send your resumé to: hr.recruitment@megaworldcorp.com

HUMAN RESOURCE POSITIONS:

HUMAN RESOURCES ASSOCIATE
- Graduate of BS Psychology, Behavioral Science or any related course
- Experience in recruitment is an advantage
- People-oriented and goal driven
- With good scholastic records
- Open to multi-tasking
- With strong sense of responsibility and dedication to work
- Not more than 25 years old

Send your resumé to: hr.innovate@megaworldcorp.com

TRAINING ASSISTANT
- Candidate of BS Marketing/Sales/Mass Comm. or its equivalent
- Applicants must be willing to work in Taguig City
- Fresh graduates/entry level applicants are encouraged to apply
- Not more than 26 years old

Send your resumé to: hr.innovate@megaworldcorp.com

OTHER POSITIONS:

WRITERS
- Not more than 31 years old, preferably a MassComm/ English/Journalism graduate
- With 2 to 4 years' experience in writing copy for print ads, brochures, fliers and audio-visual presentations in an ad agency or communications department of a reputable company
- A strategic conceptualizer and writer who thrives under pressure
- Disciplined, flexible, hardworking and driven to excel

Send your resumé to:advertising@megaworldcorp.com

I.T. SPECIALIST
- Graduate of BS Computer Engineering, Computer Science/ Information Technology or equivalent
- With at least two years of experience in IT/Computer-Network/System/Database Administration or its equivalent
- Experienced in Networking of Point of Sales (POS) and maintaining server in various retail stores
- Not more than 30 years old

Send your resumé to: apply@megaworldcorp.com

CUSTOMER RELATIONS SPECIALIST
- Graduate of any four-year course
- With background in customer service or any related work
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Willing to do client calls
- Not more than 30 years old

Send your resumé: apply@megaworldcorp.com

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY REPRESENTATIVE
- Graduate of Social Work or any related course
- With experience in putting up a corporate social responsibility dept/section in an organization
- Organized, hardworking and keen on details
- Personable and with good communication skills
- Patient and willing to deal with college students
- Not more than 25 years old

Send your resumé to: hr.innovate@megaworldcorp.com

LICENSING ASSISTANT
- Graduate of any four-year course
- Must have good contacts with government, LGUs, HLURB, DENR, DAR
- Willing to do field work
- Must be a team player, assertive, result-driven and with a sense of integrity
- Should be willing to do field work
- Experience in a real estate industry is an advantage

Send your resume to: apply@megaworldcorp.com

DOCUMENTATION ASSISTANT
- Graduate of any four-year course
- Female, 22 to 26 years old
- Willing to do clerical/administrative work

Send your resumé to: hr.recruitment@megaworldcorp.com

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
- Graduate of any business course
- With excellent communication skills
- Highly analytical and can work with minimal supervision
- Female, not more than 28 years old

Send your resumé to: apply@megaworldcorp.com

Note: Please indicate the position you are applying for in the subject heading of your e-mail or on the envelope; otherwise, your application will not be processed.

MEGAWORLD CORPORATION
THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
G/F The World Centre, 330 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

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- Must be computer literate.
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GRADUATES OF:
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- BS Secondary Education) and English

TEACHERS FOR ART (All levels)

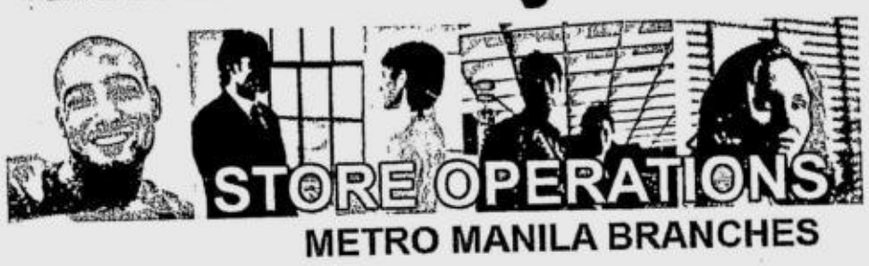
GRADUATES OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION

ADMINISTRATION PERSONNEL
- Accounting/Purchasing Clerk
- Secretary/Receptionist

*** Top Schools Preferred ***

Submit resume with 2x2 picture to:
HRD, Josol Bldg., E. Rodriguez, Jr. Ave., Libis, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 631-2262 to 66; E-mail: hrd@reedleyschool.com

SM DEPARTMENT STORE



METRO MANILA BRANCHES

ASSISTANT BRANCH MANAGER

Store Operations
Responsible for the over-all operations of a department tore to ensure attainment of optimum sales performance and excellent customer service.

Merchandising
In-charge for the over-all supervision of merchandise assortment and stock control of both Outright and Store Consignor to achieve maximum sales potential and ensures effective implementation of marketing, promotions and standard operating procedures of the company.

QUALIFICATIONS
- has a degree in Business Management, Marketing or any related course
- with 3 to 5 years relevant experience in Management, Marketing or Retail Merchandising in a senior capacity
- with outstanding leadership, interpersonal and team-building skills
- able to conceptualize and implement attainable sales projections and has proven track records in sales and service

SELLING MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

Planning, controlling and directing selling activities and personnel for the attainment of sales targets.

QUALIFICATIONS
- male/female; not over 32 years old
- graduate of any 4-year Business course
- with 1 to 2 years experience in retail operations, fast food/restaurant chains or in sales in the same capacity
- ability to carry out prompt and efficient customer service

COUNTER & CHECKING MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

Cashiering operations, cash transactions and over-all supervision of personnel

QUALIFICATIONS
- female; not over 32 years old
- graduate of any 4-year Business course
- with 1 to 2 years experience in bank operations or counter-cashier functions and familiar with credit card transactions

CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

Planning, coordinating, controlling and directing customer service operations and functions in the assigned branch department

QUALIFICATIONS
- female; not over 35 years old
- graduate of any 4 year course
- with 1-2 years experience in sales and marketing, able to carry out prompt and efficient customer service

WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR

Works with the Warehouse Manager in planning, controlling and directing activities related to warehouse operations / functions in the branch

QUALIFICATIONS
- male; not over 32 years old
- graduate of any four-year business course
- with extensive experience in all aspects of warehouse operations in a retail buisness
- able to lead, motivate and foster teamwork in the department

CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSISTANT

Provide prompt and efficient customer service to satisfy customers' needs and to significantly contribute to and maintain the company's reputation

QUALIFICATIONS
- female; not over 25 years old
- graduate of any 4 year course
- with good communication and interpersonal skills
- knowledge of cashiering; flexible to be assigned to various areas which includes bills payment section and information booth
- trustworthy, patient and keen to details, personable and willing to be scheduled in support of retail hours

TREASURY ASSISTANT

Assists the Treasury Supervisor in the performance of functions relative to general treasury operations and foreign currency exchange, ensure adequate customer service through prompt tellering and adequate pay out.

QUALIFICATIONS
- female; not over 25 years old
- preferably graduate of Accountancy, Banking and Finance, Financial Management or any 4 year related course
- knowledge of counterfeit detection and basic banking transactions
- trustworthy, patient and keen to details, personable and flexible to be scheduled in support of retail hours

Interested parties may apply personally from Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM at

RECRUITMENT DEPARTMENT
Building D, SM Corporate Office SM Central Business Park, Bay City, Pasay City

or email us at

Recruit.SM.HO@sm-shoemart.com

(Please bring comprehensive resume, 2 pcs. 2x2 colored picture with white background, SSS Number / SSS Employment History printout plus original and photocopy of Transcript of Records and Diploma)

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A leading and established Health and Beauty company enjoying an unparalleled professional reputation for 25 years is currently looking for *HIGH-SPIRITED INDIVIDUALS* with *LIMITLESS PASSION FOR SUCCESS* that can contribute in upholding our No. 1 rank in the industry.

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SALES CONSULTANTS
- Female, 24-35 years old
- Professional appearance and with pleasing personality
- College graduate from a reputable university
- Preferably with good sales background from a service-oriented company
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Open for **Metro Manila, Pampanga** and **Cebu** assignments

PART-TIME DERMATOLOGISTS
- Female, 27-35 years old
- Licensed/Qualified Dermatologist
- Good built, with good skin condition and pleasing personality
- With good interpersonal and communication skills
- Work schedule can be arranged

OPERATIONS ASSOCIATE / MANAGEMENT TRAINEE
- Female, 27-33 years old, Business Management graduate from a reputable school/university
- With at least 3-5 years supervisory experience in handling Housekeeping Staff
- Creative in coming up with programs that will enhance and uplift the image of the branch office
- Preferably comes from a hotel and service industry
- Results-oriented, meticulous at work and with strong leadership qualities
- Possess maturity; objective judgment; a dedicated team player & a self-starter

COPYWRITER
- Female, at least 25-33 years old
- Graduate of Advertising, Mass Communications or any related course
- Must be able to conceptualize, write clear and compelling advertising copy
- Adept in preparing spiels and script for TV features and sponsorship materials
- Highly creative and competitive, professional in appearance and able to work with minimum supervision
- Exposure to client presentations and meetings, a definite advantage
- Knowledge in Photoshop and Freehand, a definite plus

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANTS
- Female, 23-30 years old
- Accounting graduate with good scholastic records from a reputable school; CPA passer an advantage but not required
- With 1-2 years related experience in handling GENERAL ACCOUNTING and/or ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
- With good communication and interpersonal skills

RECEPTIONISTS
- Female, 21-28 years old
- College graduate from a reputable university
- With good communication skills; smart and personable
- Previous telemarketing experience, a plus factor
- Enthusiastic with good people skills or PR
- Open for **Alabang, Makati & QC area**

NURSES/THERAPISTS
- Female, 20-28 years old
- Graduate of BS Nursing/BS Physical Therapy/ BS Occupational Therapy
- Equipped with good communication skills
- With or without experience
- Open for **Metro Manila, Pampanga** and **Cebu** assignments

Qualified applicants may submit their credentials together with their 2x2 picture to:
THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
6/F Global Enterprise Bldg., 138 H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
email: hrdrecruit@laser.com.ph

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We are looking for qualified candidates for the following positions :

REGIONAL ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
- BSC Accountancy graduate; Computer Literate
- Attentive to details; Hardworking, dependable, can work under pressure and with minimum supervision

REGIONAL FINANCE SUPERVISOR
- CPA; Computer Literate; not over 35 yrs. old
- Preferably with adequate accounting experience
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Attentive to details; Hardworking, dependable, can work under pressure and with minimum supervision

ACTUARIAL SUPERVISOR
- BS Mathematics graduate; Computer Literate
- Attentive to details; hardworking, dependable, can work under pressure and minimum supervision

All interested qualified candidates may send their comprehensive resumé with transcript of records and 1x1 photo to :

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
LOYOLA PLANS CONSOLIDATED, INC.
849 A. ARNAIZ AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
or email: hrmd@loyolaplans.com

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Three (3) ENGINEER II - Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical/Civil/Electrical Engineering, with 2 1/2 years of relevant experience and with 8 hours of relevant training. Mechanical/Civil/Electrical Engineering Board Passers.

Two (2) ENTERPRISE SERVICES OFFICERS - Bachelor's Degree with CS Professional Eligibility.

Two (2) ACCOUNTANTS - BS in Accountancy with 2-3 years financial and accounting work experience; with 8 hours of relevant training; CPAs.

One (1) PLANNING OFFICER II - Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job; with 2 years of relevant experience; with 8 hours of relevant training and with CS Professional Eligibility.

One (1) DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT OFFICER II - Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job; with 2 years of relevant experience; with 8 hours of relevant training and with CS Professional Eligibility.

Four (4) COMPUTER SERVICES PROGRAMMERS - Bachelor's degree in Information Technology or any computer-related course; knowledgeable on computer maintenance and troubleshooting (including IT equipment); familiar or with working knowledge of Windows 2003 server and Linux Operating System; must be able to perform simple network cabling and troubleshooting; able to back-up and restore files; background in PHP is an advantage; with 4 hours of relevant training and with CS Professional Eligibility.

Send resume with 2x2 photo and pertinent credentials to:
P.O. Box 3403
Makati Central Post Office
1274 Makati City

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High School Teachers in Mathematics & Computer Subjects

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Requirements:
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- Experience in Curtain Wall & Cladding is an advantage
- Can work under pressure

QUANTITY SURVEYOR/ESTIMATOR
Requirements:
- Knowledgeable in AUTOCAD
- Proficient in EXCEL
- Able to read ARCHITECTURAL DRAWING PLAN

Please submit your resumé at:
OVERGAARD TECHNICAL SERVICES, INC.
10th flr. Aurora Milestone Bldg.,
1045 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City
otsi-mla@pldtdsl.net

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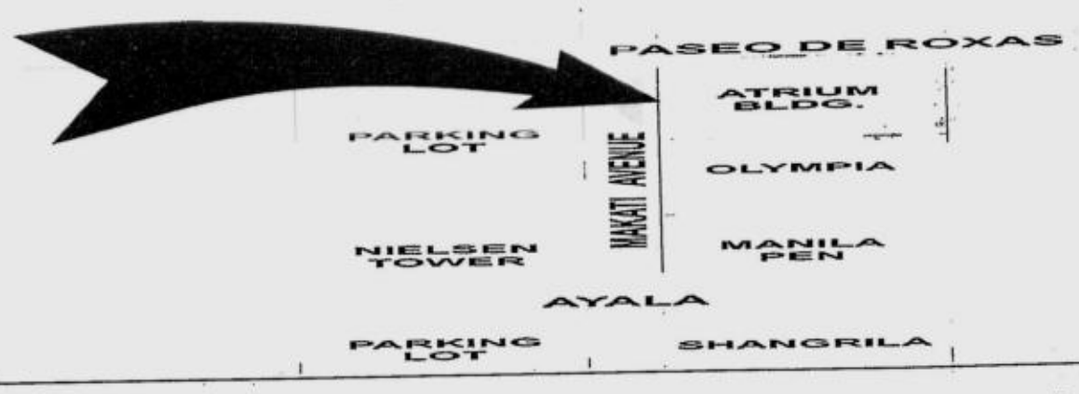
Call EMY, CARLO, TINTIN or BENG at TEL. NOS. 811-4370 / 811-4361 / 811-4012 / 892-5578



Let'sTalkCareers

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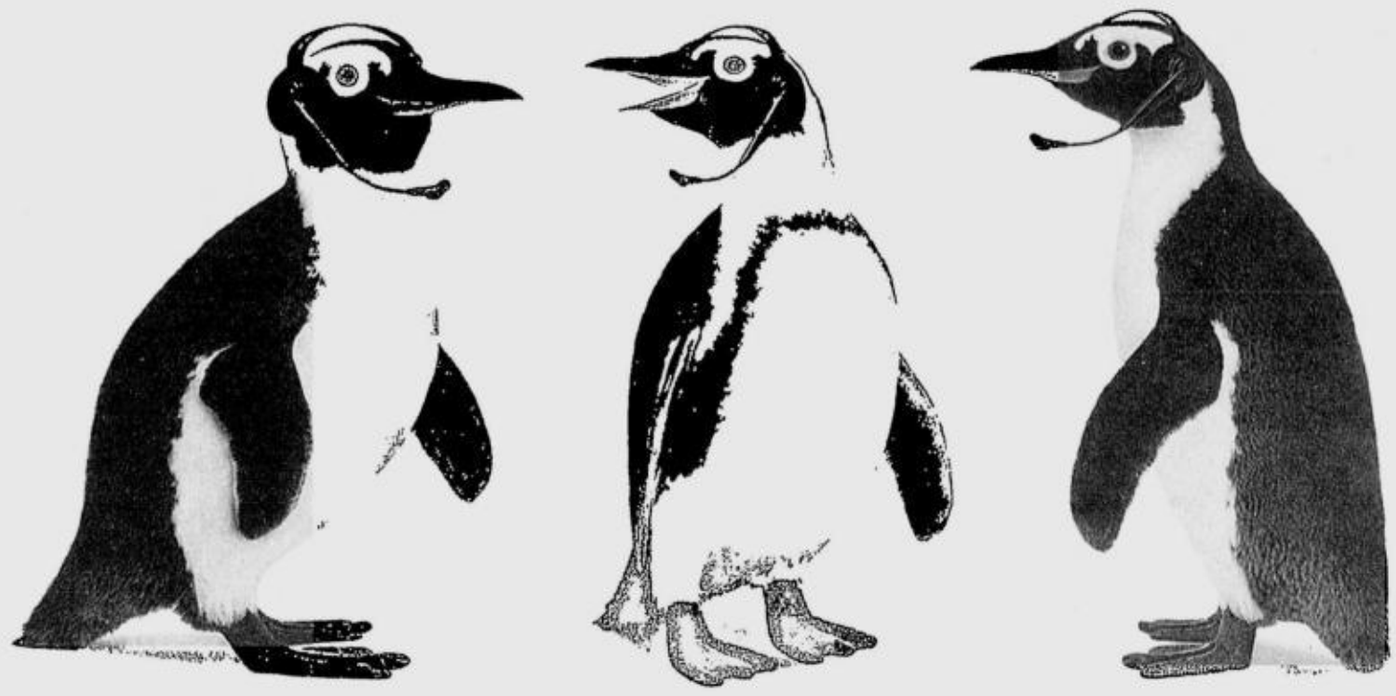

Explore your opportunities with Ambergris today!
We are looking for:

DIRECTOR FOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Responsibilities:
- Sales and Marketing functions including client relationship management, marketing of the company to prospective and existing clients
- Liaison and meeting with clients
- In charge of site visits by clients – logistical preparation, scheduling of meetings with local team
- In charge of bid governance
- Assistance in product design and quotation
- Company Profile and Product presentation to clients (potential and existing)
- Preparation of marketing materials
- Providing information and case studies on the company's operations to the Sales team
- Spearheading of planning for new account launches
- Interaction and coordination with Operations and Support groups in preparation for launches

Qualifications:
- Technical knowledge in solutions
- Background in integrated project management
- With Sales experience
- With experience in handling technical accounts or companies
- Must have strong people interaction skills
- Must have working knowledge of Finance, Workforce Management and Manpower Planning
- Detail-oriented
- Self-driven, resourceful and flexible
- Ability to handle pressure
- Preferably, with experience or familiarity with Call Center operations & business
- Preferably, with MBA degree or units

DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS (3)

Responsibilities:
- Manage call center operations activities for a particular account
- Acts as the primary contact of clients and maintains cordial working relations with them
- Ensures the achievement of service levels and financial targets stipulated by clients through active coordination with various Operations and Support functions
- Ensures that all program/account processes and procedures are adhered to and that individual/global metrics are consistently improving for the account

Qualifications:
- Bachelor's Degree in any course, preferably Business or Business Management
- 2-3 years of experience in Call Center Operations, Customer Service, Business Process Outsourcing, or Telecommunications experience in a Managerial or Directorial capacity
- Proficiency in MS Office applications (i.e. MS Word, Excel) and other call center-specific software/systems (i.e. Baleen, Blue Pumpkin, Avaya)
- Experience in client relationship management
- Supervisory and people management skills
- Time and project management skills
- Excellent oral and written communication skills w/ fluency in the English language
- Adaptive to changing work schedules and working hours
- Customer service oriented
- Problem-solving, decision-making, and analytical skills

DIRECTOR FOR PRODUCT MARKETING

Responsibilities:
- Market research and competitive study (including pricing and feasibility study)
- Client servicing and account management
- Achievement of targets
- Company Profile and Product presentation to clients
- Preparation of tools such as marketing playbook

Qualifications:
- Technical knowledge in solutions
- Background in Integrated project management
- With Sales or Marketing experience
- With experience in handling technical accounts or companies
- Results-oriented, driven to achieve target
- Self-driven, resourceful and flexible
- Ability to handle pressure
- Preferably, with experience or familiarity with Call Center operations & business
- Preferably, with MBA degree or units

OPERATIONS MANAGER - TECHNICAL SUPPORT (3)

Responsibilities:
- Contribute to the acquisition, satisfaction, and retention of client contracts / agreements.
- Act as escalation point of contact of clients for the account / program, and maintains cordial working relations with them
- Ensure the achievement of all program KPI's stipulated by clients through active coordination with various Operations and Support functions
- Ensure that all program/account processes and procedures are adhered to and the account's individual/global metrics are consistently improving
- Responsible for financial targets of all accounts managed, likewise ensuring the practice area's Profit and Loss performance as well as other company-specific key performance indicators.

Qualifications:
- At least 2-3 years experience in the Call Center industry in a leadership role (e.g. as a TC, Support Team Manager, OM.)
- Bachelor's Degree in any course, preferably Business or Business Management.
- Proven leadership and overall people skills; strong customer orientation and client relations;
- Proficient in problem solving, decision making and analytical skills – must be able to deliver time-bound reports under pressure
- Proven track record in managing client mandated KPI's
- Sufficient project/program/client management experience to coordinate implementation of new programs into the account.
- Excellent/strong oral and written communication skills with fluency in the English
- Must be able to work full time employment and flexible with working hours
- Ability to handle pressure
- Working knowledge of MS basic Office suite of products (Word, Excel and PowerPoint)

ONLINE TEACHERS

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Education, Communication Arts, Psychology, English Major or any business related course.
- With teaching experience (specifically preschool and grade school) an advantage.
- Preferably female
- With pleasing personality.

DIRECTOR FOR PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Responsibilities:
- Market and business analysis / study
- Product/Service analysis

Qualifications:
- Technical knowledge in solutions
- Background in Integrated project management, corporate planning and business process improvement
- Knowledge of company's processes
- With Sales or Marketing work experience
- With experience in handling technical accounts or companies
- Analytical
- Self-driven, resourceful and flexible
- Ability to handle pressure
- Preferably, with experience or familiarity with Call Center operations & business
- Preferably, with MBA degree or units

MARKET RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Responsibilities:
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Sales & Marketing, Mass Communications or equivalent.
- Required skill(s): persuasive, extensive/sufficient sales experience, goal-driven,above average communication skills.
- At least 9 months experience as an outbound call center agent.
- Required language: English

INBOUND CUSTOMER INTERACTION ASSOCIATES
OUTBOUND CUSTOMER INTERACTION ASSOCIATES
TECHNICAL SUPPORT INTERACTION ASSOCIATES

FOR HUMAN RESOURCES:
HR GENERALIST
MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT TRAINING OFFICER
RECRUITMENT OFFICER
RECRUITMENT ASSOCIATE
ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE
BEHAVIORAL TRAINING ASSOCIATE
PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATE
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

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Email: recruitment@ambergrissolutions.com
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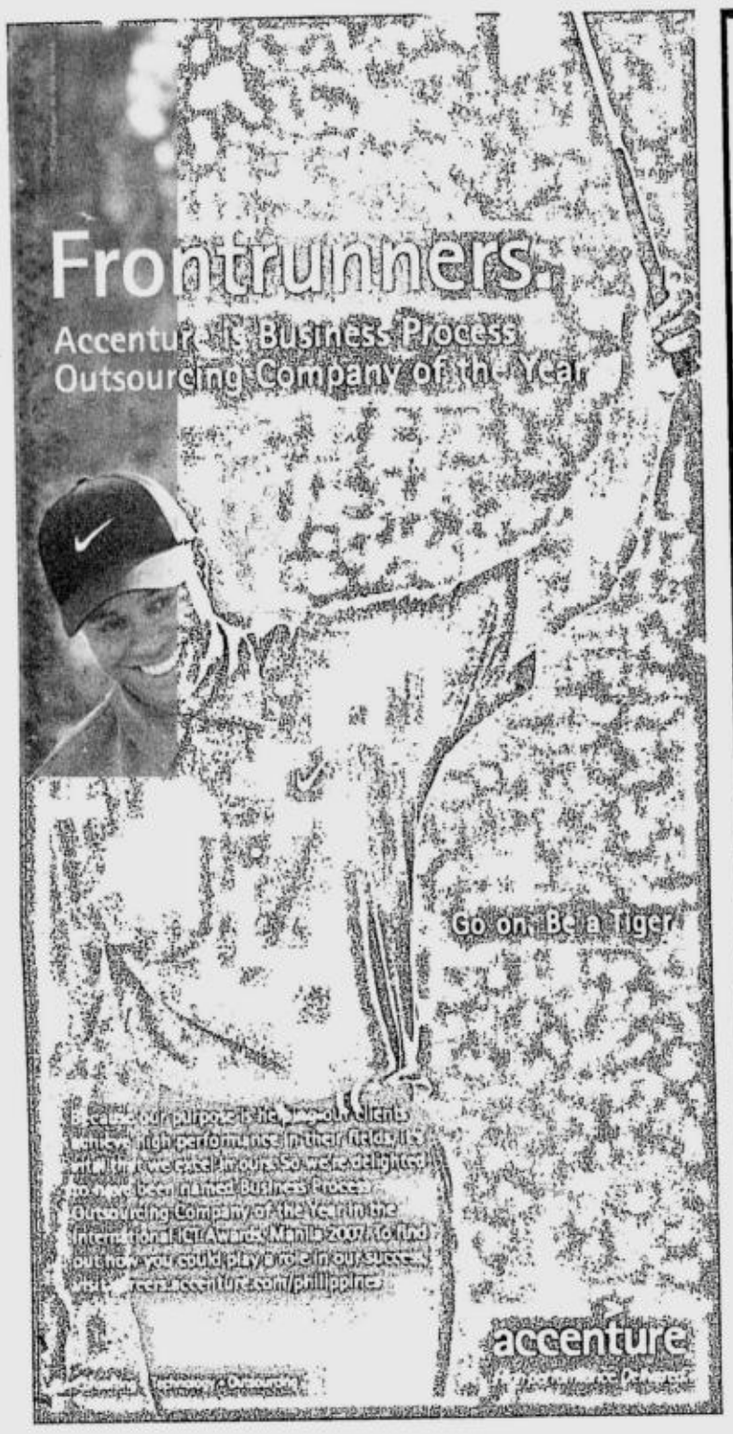

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Candidates must have the following qualifications:

- Graduate or university degree in the field of education and/or Mathematics, Science or History (i.e. Bachelor's in related fields)
- Evidence of strong writing, grammar, and spelling skills (pls. present or submit writing samples)
- Excellent organizational skills
- Evidence of good proofreading skills and attentiveness to subtle details
- Proven ability to follow detailed instructions and interpret models
- Experience working in a team environment
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office products including Word and Excel
- 2 – 5 years teaching experience is a plus
- Previous writing and editing experience is a plus
- Previous curriculum development experience is a plus

Apply in person or send resume to:

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Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City
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4 UNIT SALES MANAGERS

- Age: 25-30, MALE OR FEMALE
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ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

12 FOR METRO MANILA

7 FOR NORTHERN/SOUTHERN LUZON AREAS
➤ Must be based in PAMPANGA & LIPA BATANGAS

6 FOR VISAYAS & MINDANAO AREAS
➤ Must be based in CEBU or DAVAO or willing to be relocated

- Age: 22-28, MALE OR FEMALE
- Experience preferred, but not required
- Graduate of a four year course

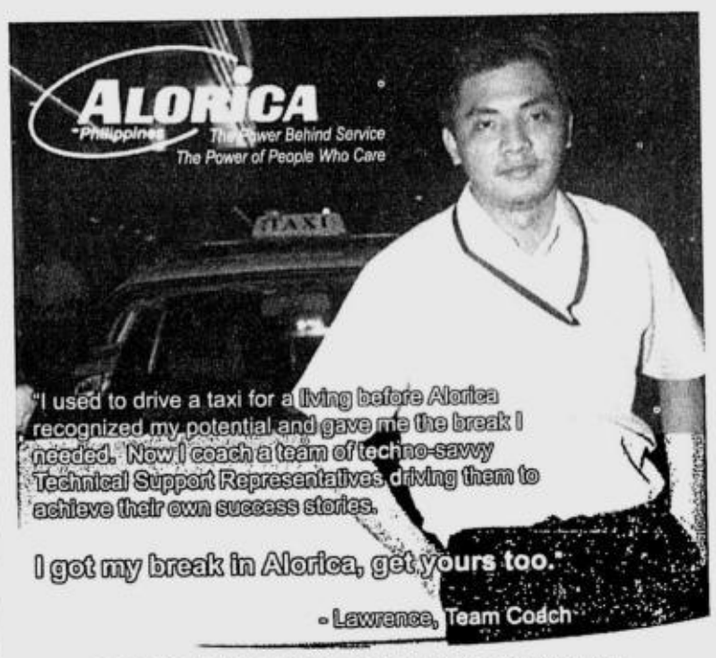
SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WILL RECEIVE ABOVE-INDUSTRY COMPENSATION TRAINING, BENEFITS, ALLOWANCES, INCENTIVES AND TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

Interested parties may set an interview appointment with JOYCE PINEDA or SEND YOUR RESUME THRU EMAIL AT

resume@miles-levels.com

OR MAIL YOUR RESUME TO ADDRESS BELOW.

MILES & LEVELS PHILIPPINES, INC.
9 Williams St. Corner Sheridan St., Mandaluyong City
tel. 6359999 • 0917 7028888



WE ARE IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

Call Center Operations
Technical Support Representatives

Customer Interaction Specialists
Qualifications:
College graduate or college level
Good communication skills
Willing to work flexible hours
Patient, team player, and coachable

Operations Manager
QA Manager
Traffic Specialist

Information Communication and Technology Dept.
Programmers
Qualifications:
Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or related experience in .NET, Visual Basic 6.0 and/or Visual Interdev 6.0. RDBMS experience in (MS SQL, MySQL and/or Oracle).

Finance and Administration Dept.
Finance Assistant

OTHER LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AVAILABLE

If interested, bring your resume with a 2x2 picture to the following addresses:

33rd floor Wynsum Corporate Plaza,
F. Ortigas, Jr Ave.(formerly Emerald Ave.),
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

27th floor IBM Plaza Building,
Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City

Recruitment Hotline: 914-3700 loc. 7515
Email Address: recruitment@manila.alorica.net

Email : recruitment@apacmail.com
Apply Online: http://ps.jobsdb.com/APAC-CSR
Text APAC APPLY name / age / gender / location to 2966
(For all networks)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07
http://www.dswd.gov.ph
Tulong! Sulong!

Vacant MOA Positions

The Social Technology Bureau (STB) has a Project on Pre-Pilot Testing of the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) and is hiring the following staff on a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) basis with the following qualification standard:

(1) Statistician
Education : Bachelor of Science in Statistics
Experience : 3 years of relevant experience in the field of statistics
Training : 16 hours of relevant training
Eligibility : None required

(1) Econometrician
Education : Bachelor of Science in Economics or Statistics with specialization in econometrics
Experience : 3 years of relevant experience in econometrics
Training : 16 hours of relevant training
Eligibility : None required

Interested applicants may submit their application and comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture to the Social Technology Bureau on or before May 21, 2007.

For almost 60 years, we have worked to alleviate human suffering, and in our continued efforts to be the foremost humanitarian organization in the Philippines, we would like to invite applicants to join us as

1. MIS Manager
2. Medical Officer
3. Medical Technologist (to be assigned in Luguna, Olongapo City and Quezon – Lucena City Chapter)
4. Assistant Chief Accountant
5. Bookkeepers
6. Internal Auditors (2)

If you believe that you are qualified for the above positions, please send your CV on or before 22 May 2007 to:

The Manager, Human Resources
The Philippine National Red Cross
Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila
Telefax no. 527-6219

Or email to: hrd@redcross.org.ph

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Captain	Chief Engineer	AB
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Interested applicants must submit their resumé with 2x2 pictures, and photocopy of training certificates.

Manila office: *Rm. 302, 3F AC Raftel Center, 8193 Dr. A. Santos Ave., San Isidro, 1700 Parañaque City*
Phone: (+632) 820-1362 **Fax:** (+632) 829-9033
E-mail to londonshipping@yahoo.co.uk
Look for *Ms. Jhaz*

Cebu office: *Rm. 201, Floren Bldg., A. C. Cortez Mandaue City, Cebu*
Phone: (+6332) 345-3152 **Telefax:** (+6332) 344-1026
Look for *Ms. Leonor*

WITH SPECIAL SKILLS COME GREAT OPPORTUNITIES

We are searching for SEASONED CALL CENTER PROFESSIONALS for

TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES

- Interested candidates must be willing to work in Quezon City.
- Experience in handling a V.O.I.P. service Account a plus.
- TIER 2 Tech Support experienced candidates also welcome.

OTHER MANAGERIAL/SUPPORT OPENINGS:

Client Relations Manager
Inbound Phone Operations Manager
Operations Director
Core Skills Trainer

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15th Floor, Tower 2, RCBC Plaza,
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Quezon City
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Other opportunities are:

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Communications Trainers
Product Trainers
Training Assistants

Shift Managers
Operations Supervisors
Workforce Analyst
Workforce Asistants

HR Assistants
Helpdesk Analyst
Accounting Staff
Receptionist
OJT for Recruitment

Network and Telecommunications Manager
Software Developer
Operations Site Director

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VISIT ACS @ G/F Asian Plaza Bldg. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Tordesillas St., Makati City

2/F SM Lipa, Ayala Highway, Lipa,Batangas

CALL ACS @ 884-5200 local 5666

Email ACS @ recruitment@acspacific.com

SURF ACS @ http://www.acspacific.com

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San Juan, Metro Manila
needs

TEACHERS

The applicant must be:

1. 21 to 30 years old
2. a BSE graduate for High School and a BEED graduate for Grade School and Pre-School
3. proficient in English

Bring credentials.

Apply at:

148 Jose Gil Street (the former Valenzuela Street)
San Juan, Metro Manila
email: sja@pldtdsl.net

A Design Office is looking for the following:

CONCEPT/DESIGN ARCHITECT

Job requirements:
- Strong in designs concept for residential projects
- Knowledge in interior Design
- Modernist & Minimalist approach to design
- Proficient in AutoCAD and equivalent software

Qualifications:
- B. Arch. from a recognized university
- Independent, highly motivated and excellent interpersonal skills
- Ready and willing to relocate overseas

INTERIOR DESIGNER/DRAUGHTMAN

Qualifications:
- Proficient in AutoCAD and equivalent software
- Hardworking and individual with strong sense and passion in design
- Ready and willing to relocate overseas

Send your Cover Letter, samples of work, expected salary to: columnsbricks@yahoo.com.sg

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Ice Carvers/Kitchen Artists

DINING & BAR
F&B Managers & Supervisors
Bartenders/Barwaitresses
(female: 5'4"; male: 5'7")
Waiters/Waitresses
Provision Masters
F&B Controllers

ACCOMMODATIONS
Housekeeping Mgrs/Supervisors
Linenkeepers/Supervisors
Laundrymen/Masters
Lady Room Attendants (5'4")
Pool Attendants/Lifeguards
Seamstress/Tailors
Apprentice(Male, HRM/Tourism grads 5'7", not more than 27 yrs old)

CLUB
Pit Boss/Managers
Casino Dealers/Inspectors
Cage Cashiers
Slot Technicians/Attendants
Surveilance/CCTV Officers

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
IT Officers
Horticulturists/Florists
Printers/Offset Machine Operators
Lady Security Guards
Boutique Staff/Storekeepers
Youth Staff/English Trainor

ENTERTAINMENT
Musicians/Cruise Staff
Photographers
Lights And Sounds Technicians
Disc/Karaoke Jockey

SPA
Fitness Instructors / Attendants
Beauticians (With Masseuse Exp)
Foot Reflexologists

DECK & ENGINE
All Deck and Engine Officers (Esp for Chemical Tankers)
Electricians
Pumpman
Fitters (All Categories)
Upholsters / Carpenters

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Nurses (ICU,ER,OR Exp)

FRONT OFFICE
Concierge/Front Desk Staff

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POEA License
MMI-OS-162-SB 111594/R-MLI-OS-145-SB-10394-R
Accreditation nos.
23049 2/25790 5/23938 2/25504-3

Interested applicants must apply online at www.magsaysaycareers.com or visit our booth at the Job Fair on May 18-20 at MegaMall

Supervisory leadership enhancement

YOUR BUSINESS performance, to a large extent, depends on how effective your supervisors lead your people. Remember, a supervisor may be technically competent but if he is handicapped by poor leadership skills, your company will not reach its full potential.

Empower your leaders. Let them attend the very important seminar on Developing Your Supervisory Leadership slated dubbed May 30, 1–5 p.m. at Holiday Inn Galleria.

This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles, Inc. a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for more information / reservation. Hurry! Call us now while there are still seats available.

Tax amnesty for you and your business

THIS COULD BE YOUR major break! Take advantage of the Tax Amnesty law recently signed by the house and senate.

Don't miss this very special seminar which could give you the biggest savings in your business. Be there on May 29, 1:30– 5:30 pm at Holiday Inn Galleria.

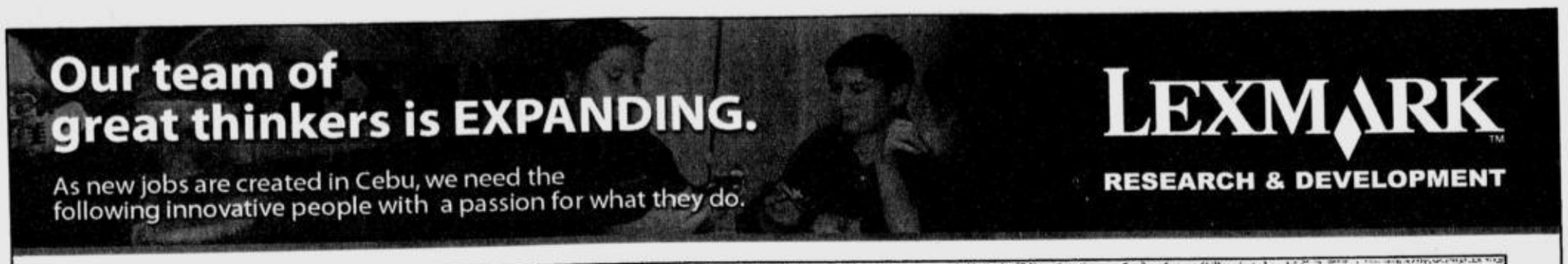
A special highlight of the seminar is the Free Tax Clinic— Consult your case for free.

For more information, please call Powermax Consulting Group at 687-9014 or 396-1789. Look for Rax. Call us now to reserve your seat.

PMAP's first technology-driven job fair

THE PEOPLE MANAGEMENT Association of the Philippines (PMAP) through its Corporate Social Responsibility Committee shall launch PMAP's first paperless job fair in the country on May 31 to June 1 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. PMAP has always been known in spearheading a strong advocacy in the promotion of employment for every Filipino, having members holding various important positions in all levels in a wide range of industries, from finance, retail, marketing, BPOs, to IT. PMAP in partnership with JobsDB shall allow the organization to adopt to the 21st century style of promoting career opportunities to the thousand job seekers. It shall unveil the latest innovation of having state-of-the-art application for employment through the use of PMAP's Career Card.

Participating recruiting companies will be provided with a scanner similar to the barcode device used in different business establishments. A jobseeker simply submits the Career Card to the hiring company's representative who will then scan the bar code of the career card. The career card is a benchmark in the recruitment industry because it saves jobseekers transportation, printing, and postage costs.



Our team of great thinkers is EXPANDING.

As new jobs are created in Cebu, we need the following innovative people with a passion for what they do.

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HARDWARE POSITIONS

MECHANICAL ENGINEER
Qualifications
- Has BS degree in Mechanical Engineering (degree in MS is an added advantage)
- Has proven extensive knowledge in hands-on laboratory mechanical work, testing methods, and root cause analysis
- Familiar with the manufacturing and design processes
- Has at least 2 years of relevant work experience

PA SOFTWARE TEST ENGINEER
Job Summary
This full-time position is primarily a technical testing role working with an integrated team of developers, product managers, and other test engineers. The primary objective of this candidate will be to drive the software and firmware testing process through developing and execution of test scenarios, as well as regression testing for Lexmark printer software and other software solutions. This position would also focus on communicating non-conformities found during test using the appropriate problem tracking database system and would track issues through generation of reports, as well as status of testing coverage for all software products subjected for testing. The candidate will track all reported defects and will facilitate in driving them to closure. The candidate will also help prioritize defects to be fixed using an understanding of business requirements and the needs of the customer.
Qualifications
- Has a BS Degree in Computer Engineering.
- Effective English language skills; verbal and written communications.
- Knowledgeable on Microsoft Office Tools (Excel, Word, PowerPoint)
- Strong analytical skills, keen in details, and organized.
- Decision making and critical thinking skills.
- Teamplayer and can adapt to varying project requirements.
- Knowledge on PERL, PHP, JAVA, and software testing methodologies is an advantage.

MOTION CONTORL ENGINEER
Qualifications
- Has BS degree Mechanical Engineering or Electrical Engineering (degree in MS is an added advantage)
- Experience in instrumentation and measurement specifically in microprocessor control is desirable
- With proven skills in Instrumentation and Measurement of position, velocity, acceleration and current as well as electrical and mechanical aptitude, microprocessor controls, bode analysis
- Knowledgeable in step motor, dc & brushless dc motor including linear & digital control analysis and design

PACKAGING ENGINEER
Qualifications
- Must have a BS degree in either Packaging Engineering, Mechanical Engineering or Engineering Science
- Has two or more years of experience in the computer or consumer electronics industry, where previous experience is related to packaging dynamics (shock and vibration) testing and cushion design
- Proficient with such software tools as IDEAS, EDIS, Excel, Word, and TOPS, among others.
- Must have a strong technical and communication skills and proficient in English.

LASER SCANNING UNITS ENGINEER
Qualifications
- BS degree in Electronics and Communications Engineering or Electrical engineering (degree in MS is an added advantage)
- Proficient in electronic circuit analysis.
- Knowledge/experience in FMEA (Failure Mode Effect Analysis)
- Knowledge/experience in test fixture design, instrumentation, data acquisition and programming
- Knowledge in LabView code development is an advantage.

GEAR TECHNOLOGY ENGINEER
Qualifications
- Has BS degree in Mechanical Engineering (degree in MS is an added advantage)
- Competent in kinematics and dynamics, mechanism design, mechanical system dynamics and vibrations, stress and strain, materials science, manufacturing processes
- Experience in Product Design and Development of gears, pulleys, rolling-element and journal bearings or a willingness and aptitude to learn
- Knowledge of Transmission Error, and its dependence on load and speed; Composite and Elemental inspection and tolerances
- Ability to discuss bode plots: amplification, damping, phase; forced and natural frequencies, spatial and temporal
- Know how in computer calculations of clearance, backlash, operating pressure angle, transverse and axial contact ratio, specific-sliding ratio, approach and recess, effective outside diameter, True Involute Form diameter, SAP and EAP and Instrumentation & Measurement of position, velocity, acceleration

AME MECHANICAL ENGINEER
Qualifications
- Has BS degree in Mechanical Engineering (degree in MS is an added advantage)
- Knowledgeable in : Injection Molding processes and mold design, Metal Stanping and Forming processes, Punch and Die processes
- Able to estimate part and tooling costs as well as lead-times for new tooling or tooling modifications/reworks
- Able to determine the manufacturability of part designs
- Skilled in determining how good a manufacturing process is via working knowledge of Cp/Cpk and First Article Inspection processes

FIRMWARE / SOFTWARE / SUPPORT POSITIONS

PHOTO APPLICATIONS FIRMWARE DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER
Job Summary:
Firmware programming position to design, develop and maintain C codes in an embedded environment.
Qualifications:
- Has BS degree in any of the following: Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Electronics & Communications Engineering, or Electrical Engineering (degree in MS is an added advantage)
- Solid C programming experience
- Preferably experience in embedded system programming and RTOS
- Good verbal and written communication skills
- Team player
- Knowledge of software/firmware development process
- Experience with a revision control system is a plus
- Experience with UML design is a plus
- Has excellent problem solving skills and can produce results with minimum supervision

PHOTO DRIVERS FIRMWARE DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER
Job Summary:
Firmware programming position to design, develop and maintain C codes in an embedded environment.
Qualifications:
- Has BS degree in any of the following: Computer Engineering, Electronics & Communications Engineering, or Electrical Engineering (degree in MS is an added advantage)
- Solid C programming experience
- Preferably experience in embedded system programming and RTOS
- Good verbal and written communication skills
- Team player
- Knowledge of software/firmware development process
- Experience with a revision control system is a plus
- Experience with UML design is a plus
- Has excellent problem solving skills and can produce results with minimum supervision

SOFTWARE PROJECT MANAGER
Job Summary:
Responsible for overall delivery of host software for Lexmark products.
Coordinates with various development, test and support groups in various sites to develop and deliver new products to the market.
Qualifications:
- College graduate, preferably with an Engineering or Computer Science degree. Masters degree is a plus.
- With prior experience in project management and SW/FW development and delivery.
- Must be able to organize and manage project work plans, provide comprehensive project status reports and activities, follow-up on deliverables and ensures that milestones are met.
- Knowledgeable on Mac, Windows, Unix and Linux operating systems.
- Proficient in using MS Project and other project tracking/management tools
- Possesses good leadership skills, is a team player, and can adapt to varying clients and project requirements.
- Excellent written and verbal English language skills. Highly proficient in written and oral presentation of work output/results.
- Keen and observant to small details.
- Knowledgeable on MS Office Tools (Excel, Word, PowerPoint)

HARDWARE ANALYST
Job Summary:
Responsible for research and overall analysis of printer hardware and systems. Works with standard test methodologies to analyze data. Conducts general research of emerging technologies and trends.
Qualifications:
- BS Degree in Mechanical Engineering or Electrical Engineering or Electronics and Communications Engineering.
- Able to perform or direct printer or machine teardowns and evaluate designs.
- Excellent written and verbal English language skills. Highly proficient in written and oral presentation of work output/results.
- Keen and observant to small details.
- Knowledgeable on MS Office Tools (Excel, Word, PowerPoint)
- Familiarity with printers, printer mechanical assemblies and printer hardware development background is a distinct advantage.
- Any previous testing experience is also a plus.

SOFTWARE PRODUCT ENGINEER
Job Summary:
Has three main job functions.
- Focuses on customer support and emphasis on quality for SW products, released and/or in-development.
- 3rd level customer support for field escalation issues.
- Project management role for SW engineering change projects and special project requests from the field or marketing.

Qualifications:
- College graduate, preferably with an Engineering or Computer Science degree. Masters degree is a plus.
- With prior experience in project management and SW/FW development and delivery.
- Must be able to organize and manage project work plans, provide comprehensive project status reports and activities, follow-up on deliverables and ensures that milestones are met.
- Knowledgeable on Mac, Windows, Unix and Linux operating systems.
- Proficient in using MS Project and other project tracking/management tools
- Possesses good leadership skills, is a team player, and can adapt to varying clients and project requirements.
- Excellent written and verbal English language skills. Highly proficient in written and oral presentation of work output/results.
- Keen and observant to small details.
- Knowledgeable on MS Office Tools (Excel, Word, Power Point)

FIRMWARE TEST ENGINEER
Qualifications:
- BS Computer Engineering, BS Computer Science, BS Computer Science major in Information Technology, BS Information & Computer Science, BS Information Technology or BS Mathematics-Computer Science
- Knowledge in computer networking (especially TCP/IP protocols and wireless technology) is highly desired
- Basic knowledge in UNIX/LINUX commands
- Working knowledge in Perl, PHP or Java is a plus
- Good written and oral communication skills including communications to the Lexington team.
- Test background, team player and self-motivated

IMAGE SCIENCE SOFTWARE ENGINEER
Qualifications:
- Has BS degree in Computer Engineering or Computer Science (degree in MS is an added advantage)
- Strong in C/C++ and Object Oriented programming language
- Understanding of Windows development is critical.
- Must be able to build applications and DLLs.
- Preferably with experience in non-Windows platforms (MAC) and developing reusable components
- Knowledge in C# is desirable
- Experience with Source Configuration Management tools and concepts are desired.
- Estimated 2-4 months training in Lexington required.
- With at least 3 years of relevant work experience
- Willing and able to travel to corporate headquarters in the US for training

INFORMATION DEVELOPMENT PLANNER
Qualifications:
- Has BA degree in Mass Communications, Communication Research, Business Administration or any related course (degree in MS is an added advantage)
- Extensive Project Management experience preferred (certification a plus). Knowledge of Information Development field is also a big plus.
- Ability to develop processes and negotiate schedules across cross-functional teams.
- Superior, demonstrated ability to communicate fluently in spoken English and in writing.
- Detail-oriented, with demonstrated ability to multi-task.
- Strong negotiator and problem-solver. Demonstrated ability to resolve problems across an organization.
- Willing to travel to corporate headquarters in the U.S. as needed

TECHNICAL SERVICE INFORMATION WRITER
Job Summary:
We need 1 Technical Service Information Writer to be part of a team of writers and editors who develop instructional and reference documents containing service information for printer products. Write documents to be used by English speaking service technicians, diagnosing and repairing printer products. Interact and communicate with RAS engineers, illustrators and service program management. Manage projects and schedules.
Qualifications
- Has BS degree in journalism or communications; an Engineering or Science degree with demonstrated English writing proficiency is preferred.
- Must have at least 1-2 years experience in writing technical documents including any of the following: parts catalogs, troubleshooting manuals, or training guides.
- Preferably with previous service experience in computer peripherals, or consumer electronics.
- Experience with FrameMaker and Lexmark printer products is a plus.
- With excellent communication & organization skills, with attention to detail.
- Flexibility and willingness to adapt to the changing needs of a rapidly growing company.
- Willing and able to travel to corporate headquarters for training.

Non-Cebu candidates will be invited to visit our Cebu facility, and if hired, will be entitled to a one-time relocation allowance. Applications without transcript of records will not be considered, and previous candidates need not re-apply. Applicants must be of LEGAL age.

Qualified candidates may E-mail their comprehensive résumé including transcript of records (with position applied as subject) to the address below:
lrdchrd@lexmark.com or visit our website at http://careers.lexmark.com.ph

Lexmark Research and Development Corporation (LRDC) is an innovative R&D company with a passion to excite customers by providing leading-edge IT products. The company is a fast-growing, integrated global developer and designer of software, firmware, and hardware for printer products of Lexmark, which has its headquarters in Lexington, Kentucky, U.S.A.

LEXMARK IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. WE DO NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, CIVIL STATUS, NATIONAL ORIGIN AND AGE.

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- Willing to work night shift.

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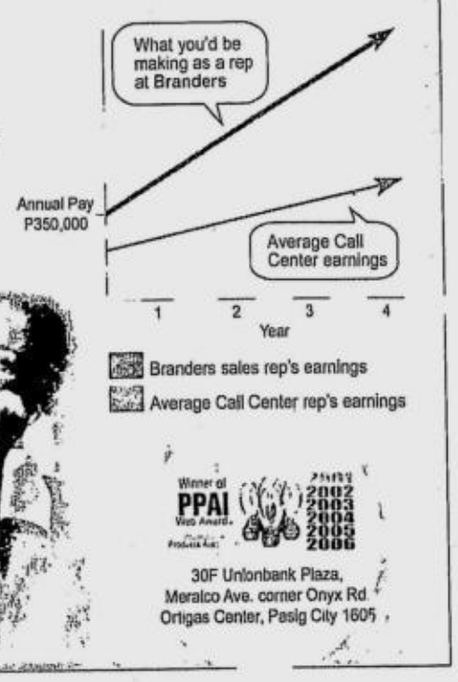

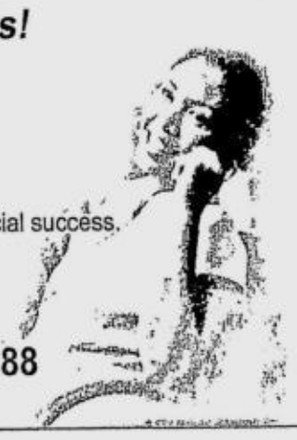

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ACCOUNTING MANAGER / ASST. ACCTG. MANAGER / ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR *(For EDSA Balintawak Q.C.)*
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- Required skill(s) Proficiency on computer software
- Should have at least two (2) years managerial/supervisory experience
- Results-oriented and with keen eye on details
- Has demonstrated initiative and leadership in the past
- Female; not more than 35 years old

BRANCH HEAD *(For Metro Manila)*
- Shall plan, direct, control and monitor the activities of the branch to achieve its goal and targets.
- Must have at least 2 years work experience in a supervisory capacity; With experience in retail/food service industry (restaurant, retail outlet) would be an advantage
- Keen on details and results-oriented
- Computer literate; Knowledge in electronics not necessary
- Female; not over 35 years old, with pleasing personality

CUSTOMER SERVICE FACILITATOR (CSF) *(For Metro Manila)*
- Must be personable, flexible and adaptive to change
- Shall handle frontline functions such as facilitating customer service needs and requirements
- With good oral and written communication skills
- Graduate of any 4 year course; female; single; not more than 27 years old

Interested applicants may apply personally to our main office at:
1172 EDSA Balintawak, Quezon City
Please bring resumé with 2x2 picture or may call (02) 455-3617 / 455-3606 and look for Ms. Jenny Garcia or you may e-mail your current resumé with 2x2 photo to: **hra@solidservice.com.ph**

You might be what we're looking for!

Join us as we break barriers and discover new horizons.

POSITIONS

BUSINESS PROCESS ANALYSTS
Qualifications
- Has BS degree in any of the following: Business Administration, Business Management, or Industrial Engineering (degree in MS is an added advantage)
- APICS CPIM Certification or equivalent a plus
- Experience in Business Processes and Technologies
- Planning Systems (Manugistics experience preferred)
- ERP (JD Edwards World experience preferred)
- B2B Integration
- Experience delivering multiple, complex projects in multi-national environment
- Experience with supply chain processes, practices, and operating policies
- Effective English language skills; verbal and written communications
- Additional foreign language skills a plus
- Strong analytical skills (business case analysis and development preferred, experience with business process & data modeling also preferred)
- Decision making and critical thinking skills
- Ability to work in a team environment with globally dispersed operations
- Knowledge of AS/400, DB2, RPG a plus
- J.D. Edwards software experience 3-5 yrs.
- J.D. Edwards World platform knowledge a plus.
- AS/400 or DB2 knowledge
- Knowledge of RPG code a plus.
- 3 yrs. Experience working in an ERP environment with a high level knowledge of these modules:
- Supply Chain
- Distribution
- Manufacturing
- Accounting/Finance
- Inventory
- 2-3 yrs. Experience with B2B integration focusing on
- EDI
- XML
- AS2 Protocol
- 3-5 yrs. Experience in business process modeling and/or data modeling.
- 2+ yrs. software testing experience.
- Strong ability to create and execute test plans.
- Proficiency using a test management tool, preferably Test Director.
- Ability to develop and publish project status reports, work update schedules, and open issue status reports.
- Project Management experience is a plus
- Candidate must be willing to travel internationally

SUPPLY CHAIN SUPPORT MANAGER
Job Summary:
Overall day-to-day Management responsibility of a team of analysts that support users, update applications and measure performance of business processes within various Supply Chain functions. The primary business domain to be supported is Supply Chain, including. Demand and Supply Planning, Procurement, Order Management and Distribution, and Decision Support reports.
The successful candidate will combine people management, technical, business and analytical skills, a college level education, and professional experience.

Qualifications:
- Must be a college graduate (degree in MS is an added advantage)
- 3 years Previous Management Experience, preferably in a supply chain or technical function
- Has strong people and English communications skills
- Ability to work in a team environment with globally dispersed operations
- Very process oriented with ability to evaluate processes and develop on-going improvement plans
- With excellent PC skills, including Excel and Powerpoint
- Experience with supply chain processes, practices, and operating policies
- Ability to develop and publish project status reports, update work schedules, and open issue status reports
- Experience working in an ERP environment with a knowledge of these areas:
- Order Management
- Distribution
- Manufacturing
- Inventory
- Planning Systems a plus (preferably Manugistics)
- Software testing experience a plus
- SQL/database experience a plus
- Willing and able to travel internationally
- Willing and able to work US or Europe business hours as necessary

APPLICATION SUPPORT ANALYSTS
Qualifications
- Has BS degree in any of the following: Computer Science, MIS, Graphic Arts or Engineering (MS degree is an added advantage)
- Ability to listen, understand and document requirements/solutions
- Experience with supply chain processes, practices, and operating policies
- Effective English language skills; verbal and written communications
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work in a team environment with globally dispersed operations
- Ability to develop and publish project status reports, update work schedules, and open issue status reports.
- Strong ability to create and execute test plans.
- 3 yrs. Experience working in an ERP environment with a knowledge of these areas:
- Order Management
- Distribution
- Manufacturing
- Accounting/Finance
- Inventory
- Planning Systems a plus (preferably Manugistics)
- B2B Integration a plus
- Software testing experience a plus
- SQL/database experience a plus
- Willing and able to travel internationally
- Willing and able to work US or Europe business hours as necessary

SERVICE DELIVERY MANAGER
Job Summary:
Exciting opportunity to work in a brand new Call center environment with a Fortune 500 company. This management position is responsible for multiple teams of people who manage Service Activities for customers in the US. This team identifies issues with Service Activities through monitoring of call queue's, determines the driver of the issue and then resolves the issues either through the system or in working with the customer. This team will also answer customer questions on issues with Service Activities via the phone and develop customer level reporting. Attention to detail and commitment to customer service are critical.

Qualifications:
- Must be a college graduate
- Previous Management Experience, preferably in a position that provides support of US customers
- Strong customer service skills
- Attention to Detail
- Very strong problem resolution skills
- Possesses strong oral and written English communication skills
- Very process oriented with ability to evaluate processes and develop on-going improvement plans
- Have a professional and mature attitude
- Excellent computer skills, including Excel and MS Word
- Working US business hours required
- Willing and able to travel to corporate headquarters in the US for training, if needed

CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION SUPERVISOR/TEAMLEAD
Job Summary:
Exciting opportunity to work in a brand new Order Entry and Contracts Data Management Department with a Fortune 500 company. This supervisory/team lead position will be responsible for the managing the warranty data entry and service billing processes. This includes research on existing accounts and assets, the timely accurate entry of new orders into the system, and on-going reconciliation of customer accounts. This team will Interact with US based customers and service area representatives to handle a variety of functions and will communicate with Lexmark offices.

Qualifications:
- Must be a college graduate
- Previous Supervisory/Team Lead Experience, preferably in a position that provides order entry or support of US customers
- Strong customer service skills
- Attention to Detail
- Very strong problem resolution skills
- Possesses strong oral and written English communication skills
- Have a professional and mature attitude
- Excellent computer skills, including Excel and MS Word
- Working US business hours required
- Willing and able to travel to corporate headquarters in the US for training, if needed

SERVICE DELIVERY SUPERVISOR/TEAMLEAD
Job Summary:
Exciting opportunity to work in a brand new Call center environment with a Fortune 500 company. This supervisory position is responsible for a team of people who manage Service Activities for customers in the US. This team identifies issues with Service Activities through monitoring of call queue's, determines the driver of the issue and then resolves the issues either through the system or in working with the customer. This team will also answer customer questions on issues with Service Activities via the phone and develop customer level reporting. Attention to detail and commitment to customer service are critical.

Qualifications:
- Must be a college graduate
- 1-2 years experience in contracts entry/management or customer service
- Strong customer service skills
- Attention to Detail
- Very strong problem resolution skills
- Possesses strong oral and written English communication skills
- Have a professional and mature attitude
- Excellent computer skills, including Excel and MS Word
- Working US business hours required
- Willing and able to travel to corporate headquarters in the US for training, if needed

SERVICE DELIVERY SPECIALIST
Qualifications:
- Must be a college graduate
- 1-2 years experience in a customer service supporting external customers is desired
- Strong customer service skills
- Very strong problem resolution skills
- Possesses strong oral and written English communication skills
- Have a professional and mature attitude
- Excellent computer skills, including Excel and MS Word
- Working US business hours required
- Willing and able to travel to corporate headquarters in the US for training, if needed

SERVICE DELIVERY/CONTRACT SPECIALIST I
Job Summary:
Exciting opportunity to work in a brand new Call center environment with a Fortune 500 company. These positions are responsible for the managing Service and Warranty Activities for customers in the US. This team will also answer customer questions on issues with Service Activities via the phone. Attention to detail and commitment to customer service are critical.

Qualifications:
- Must be a college graduate
- Strong customer service skills
- Very strong problem resolution skills
- Possesses strong oral and written English communication skills
- Have a professional and mature attitude
- Excellent computer skills, including Excel and MS Word
- Working US business hours required
- Willing and able to travel to corporate headquarters in the US for training, if needed

ASIA PACIFIC HR SPECIALIST - DATA MANAGEMENT
Job Description:
The AP HR Specialist is responsible for the ongoing support and data management of the PeopleSoft application within Lexmark's global community. This employee will be responsible for supporting all employee and manager self service transactions, as well as any exceptional data entry into the PeopleSoft system. In addition this employee must follow all proper record retention policies, follow audit compliance policies, and perform various duties assigned by management. The employee must also have good customer relation skills, interpersonal skills and written and verbal skills as they will interact with the global HRIS team members. The employee will be part of the AP HRIS team and will receive their objectives and instructions from the Asia Pacific HRIS Manager in conjunction with the EMEA HRIS manager.

Qualifications:
- Minimum of 1 to 3 years of related work experience
- Experience with global companies is a plus
- English is required
- Strong interpersonal skills (cross-cultural and communications)
- Strong change management skills
- Bachelor's degree in Business, Computer Science, Human Resources or related discipline preferred

OTHER POSITIONS: Mechanical Engineer – Print Physics | Electrical Engineer – Print Physics | Materials Engineer | Facilities Assistant | Electrical Hardware Engineer | Thermal Engineer | HR Assistant (Recruitment) | HR ASSISTANT (CompBen) | Senior Buyer | MLS Librarian | Systems Administrator / IS Engineer | Technical Writers | Illustrators | Information Localization Project Manager | Software Engineers | System Test Team Leads | Embedded Firmware Development Engineer

Non-Cebu candidates will be invited to visit our Cebu facility, and if hired, will be entitled to a one-time relocation allowance. Applications without transcript of records will not be considered, and previous candidates need not re-apply. Applicants must be of LEGAL age.

Qualified candidates may E-mail their comprehensive résumé including transcript of records (with position applied as subject) to the address below:

lrdchrd@lexmark.com
or visit our website at http://careers.lexmark.com.ph

LEXMARK IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. WE DO NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, CIVIL STATUS, NATIONAL ORIGIN AND AGE.

LEXMARK™
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Lexmark Research and Development Corporation (LRDC) is an innovative R&D company with a passion to excite customers by providing leading-edge IT products. The company is a fast-growing, integrated global developer and designer of software, firmware, and hardware for printer products of Lexmark, which has its headquarters in Lexington, Kentucky, U.S.A.

STORE SUPERVISOR
30 to 45 years old; M/F, college graduate with experience; computer literate; problem solving skills; public relations skills

FASTFOOD SUPERVISOR
30 to 45 years old, M/F, preferably HRM graduate; with experience, computer literate; problem solving skills; public relations skills

OPERATIONS CLERK
25 to 35 years old, Female, college level, with experience, organizing skills, proficient in office applications

Call Kathy at 743-3328 or 732-1954 (9am to 6pm)

A Management Company in Makati needs:

Sales Rep.
- Coll. grad., M/F, 25 to 35 yrs. old

HR-Assistant
- F, 20 to 35 yrs. old, Catholic, with experience in HR, Psychology grad.

Receptionist
- F, 21 to 35 yrs. old, Coll. grad.

Bookkeeper
- 20 to 35 yrs. old, Acctng. grad., with or without experience.

Look for Luisa at Tel. Nos. 812-4864 loc. 103. CSJ Bldg. 105 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Email: lzfrancisco@yahoo.com

Making administrative investigation and grievance handling work

PUTTING IN PLACE a judicious process in the enterprise to ensure that management makes sound decisions goes hand in hand with fairness of human resource practitioners and frontline supervisors in dealing with concerns of the workforce.

Along this line, the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) is conducting a seminar on May 16, 2007 on proper and effective administrative investigations and handling grievances in a productive and efficient manner – from the initial employee complaint through the whole process. The seminar will be held at the ECOP Boardroom, ECC Bldg., Makati City.

The seminar will dwell on the Labor-Management Relations Framework, Situating the Administrative Investigation and Grievance Handling Processes, Anchors of Administrative Investigation and Grievance Handling, Progressive Discipline, Hot Stove Technique, Administrative Investigation, Steps and Do's and Dont's in Grievance Handling, and Role Plays. To inquire or register, please call the ECOP Training and Development Department at 0906-5552995, 890-4845, 890-4847 or 899-0411.

Rotary Club of Las Piñas Central elects new president

CARPIO

ENGR BERNARDO "Ding" Carpio is the incoming President of the Rotary Club of Las Piñas Central, District 3830 for Rotary Year 2007-2008. Together with the newly appointed club officers and committee Chairmen, Ding Carpio shall be inducted into office on July 7, 2007 by the District Governor Elect Renato Magadia, to be held at the Eurotel in Las Piñas City. By profession, Mr. Carpio is a Licensed Civil Engineer and car dealer by vocation.

P. J. LHUILLIER
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P.J. Lhuillier Group of Companies is a dynamic organization managing and operating businesses in diverse industries categorized into financial and insurance services, retail and trade, property and resort management, dining, communications and information technology.

We have been part of the lives of countless millions of Filipinos in various ways, and we have been recognized and respected for the care we provide to our customers. We are on our 20th year of corporate operation as Cebuana Lhuillier and still growing.

We are inviting qualified and competent candidates to fill in key positions in the organization. We are looking for people in the field of **Accounting, Information Technology, Marketing/Creative and Graphic Arts, Market Research, Public Relations, Civil Engineering, and Branch Operations.**

For a detailed list of vacant positions, please visit our company website at
www.pjlhuillier.com

MANPOWER PLANNING AND RECRUITMENT DEPARTMENT
Human Resources Division
3/F PJL Corporate Centre, 1782 Nicanor Garcia cor. Candelaria Sts., 1200 Makati City

www.justjewels.com.ph · Cintrée Management Services · Cebuana Lhuillier Bank, A Rural Bank · www.pezapadala.com · CEBUANA LHUILLIER www.pjlhuillier.com · Le Soleil de Boracay www.lesoleil.com.ph · Cebuana Lhuillier Services Corporation · P. Lhuillier Insurance Agency

John Robert Powers
International Since 1923

Our business is growing fast. We are seeking additional goal driven and dynamic people who are motivated by the challenge and opportunity to earn according to their efforts and results.

STUDENT COORDINATOR

We are looking for dynamic and goal driven individuals that possess the following qualities:
- College Graduate, proficient in oral and written English
- Pleasing personality
- Results-oriented with limited support
- Can work with minimum supervision
- Willing to work long hours as necessary
- Computer literate

Qualified applicants should email or mail their resumé with a 2x2 photo not later than May 19, 2007. Please indicate the position you are applying for at the top of your resumé. Send to:

THE INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR
JRP AD CENTER, INC.
4th Flr. Casmer Bldg. 195 Salcedo St. Legaspi Village
Makati City
manila@johnrobertpowers.com

MOOG

We are an organization based in the state of New York, U.S.A., a recognized world leader in the design and manufacture of high performance precision control systems for commercial aviation and industrial use. Our manufacturing facility at the Baguio City Economic Zone is inviting applications for:

MACHINISTS/ MACHINE OPERATORS

RESPONSIBILITY: Fabricate tight toleranced metal parts working from engineering prints and instructions using high precision CNC or Conventional machine tools, metrology equipment, and engineered metal-cutting processes and technology.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- 3 year Mechanical Technology or BS Industrial Technology/ Education, major in Machine Shop or Mechanical Engineering graduate or equivalent as follows:
  - o At least 3 years in Engineering with 6 months general machine shop vocational course
  - o At least High School with 6 months general machine shop vocational course and 2 ½ years machine shop practice experience
- At least 1 ½ years machine shop practice experience

OTHER POSITIONS:

1. **NON-DESTRUCTIVE TEST INSPECTORS (Level II):** Graduate of a 3-year technology course specializing on Non-Destructive Testing with related experience.
2. **COST ANALYSTS:** Must be a Certified Public Accountant with at least 4 years of solid cost accounting experience obtained from manufacturing companies in a computerized environment.
3. **MACHINE REPAIR TECHNICIANS:** 3rd year, completed units in the field of Electrical, Mechanical, Mechatronics Engineering with related experience.
4. **MANUFACTURING / METHODS ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS:** Engineering graduate, preferably in Mechanical, Manufacturing or Industrial Engineering with related experience.
5. **CHEMICAL PROCESS ENGINEERS:** BS Degree in Chemistry or Chemical Engineering with related experience.
6. **HYDRAULICS MAINTENANCE TECHNICIANS:** 3rd year, completed units in the field of Electrical, Mechanical, Electronics engineering with related experience.

We are also inviting all **QUALIFIED** applicants for the MACHINIST and OTHER POSITIONS to come for:

SCREENING EXAMINATIONS

Examination Dates : **May 18 & 19 (Friday & Saturday), 2007**
Examination Time Slots : **8:00 AM, 10:30 AM and 1:00 PM of each day**
Examination Venue : **MESCO**
Brixton cor. Reliance St., Pasig City

Examination Requirements : Come with Valid ID, Updated Resumé/ Biodata & Photocopy of Transcript of Records

Moog has a work ethic that demands a great deal from each employee's sense of responsibility, self-discipline, dedication, team work, and expertise. We offer equal job opportunity and security along with a competitive compensation package and a conducive working environment.

All interested applicants unable to join the screening examinations will please send or email their full resumé complete with ID picture, telephone number, transcript of records, salary history, and return address (including telephone number), on **Wednesday, May 16, 2007** to:

MOOG CONTROLS CORPORATION
Baguio City Economic Zone
Loakan Road, Baguio City 2600
Email address: **staffingservices@ph.moog.com**

WORK FOR MAJOR US & EUROPEAN PUBLISHERS

SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS
• Degree holder in Computer Science/Information Technology or its equivalent • Fast learner; goal-oriented; resourceful & can work with minimum supervision • Strong programming skills with Java or C • Experience with XML, XSL, or XSLT • With strong analytical skills • Fresh graduates may apply

TECHNICAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST
• Bachelor's Degree holder in Computer Engineering or similar course • Fast learner, goal-oriented, resourceful & can work with minimum supervision • With experience in computer troubleshooting, assembly, and disassembly • With experience in installation and configuration of computers, printers, scanners, and software • With experience in TCP/IP and the Internet • Experience with Mac OS and Linux is an advantage • With strong analytical skills • Fresh graduates may apply

DOCUMENT ANALYSTS
• College Graduate (preferably of any computer related courses) • No experience necessary

LAYOUT ARTISTS
• Preferably with 1 year work experience in Publishing • With knowledge in any of the following applications: PageMaker, QuarkXPress, FrameMaker, or InDesign

QUALITY CONTROLLERS
• College Graduate • 1 year work experience in Publishing • Can work with minimum supervision

PROOFREADERS
• College Graduate • 1 year work experience in proofreading

ARTWORK OPERATOR/ CARTOONIST
• College Level • With at least 1 year work experience • Knowledgeable in graphics applications like Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop • Experience in publishing is an advantage • Has strong analytical skills • Willing to work in shifts • Effective team player

GRAPHIC ARTISTS
• College Graduate • With at least 1 year work experience • Prepress experience is an advantage • Able to work with minimum supervision • Skilled in design & conceptualization • Effective team player • Knowledge in the following software is an advantage: InDesign, QuarkXPress, Illustrator, Photoshop & Macromedia Flash

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
• College Graduate from a reputable university • With at least 1 year work experience in Sales and Marketing or Business Development • With very high written and oral communication skills. • Able to understand and simplify complex technical details and instructions • Knowledge in operations management and workflow processes is an advantage • Organized and has high Project Management skills • Works as a corporate Entrepreneur, conceptualizing new possible business opportunities within current clients or through prospecting new clienteles

MANAGING EDITOR
• Degree holder in Journalism or any related field • With 3 years work experience • Excellent communications & coordination skills • With competency in writing & copy editing • Very well exposed in the editorial scenario; should have strong leadership potential and can work well with deadlines

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
• College Graduate • 3 years work experience • Prior experience and a high level of proficiency in print-specific design and techniques • Proficient in computer graphic & motion design applications & a level of proficiency in web design is an advantage • Experience working in a project with multiple levels of reporting & in a cross-cultural organization

GIS SPECIALIST
• Graduate of Geodetic Engineering, Geography or any related course • Must be knowledgeable in GIS software such as ArcView and MapInfo • With experience in using GPS handheld devices/ software • Willing to do fieldwork outside Metro Manila • Preferably with valid driver's license • Background in any graphic software an advantage• Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

QM ASSISTANT
• College Graduate (preferably a graduate of industrial engineering or any related course) • Fast learner, goal-oriented, self motivated, can work with minimum supervision • With strong analytical skills • Familiar with Open Office or MS Office, specifically the spreadsheet function • Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATOR
• High School Graduate • Highly proficient in free hand illustrations in pen and ink based on written instructions or graphic references • Competent in graphic softwares such as Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is an advantage • Prepress or Agency training is an advantage

ASIATYPE INCORPORATED
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Apply in person or send resumé to:
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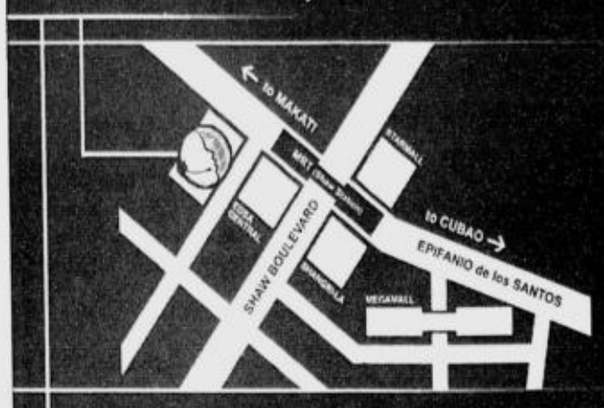
We're opening the newest addition to our TP Family, a state of the art facility at EDSA Central



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TP Manila - *Octagon Site*

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Maintenance Engineers
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Media Researchers
Market Researchers
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TOC Engineers
Transmitter Engineers
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Video Editors

Interested parties can submit their comprehensive resumes with 2X2 picture to Recruitment Section of the HRD Department

Address : **GMA Complex EDSA cor. Timog Avenue, Diliman, Q.C.**
E-mail : **recruitment@gmanetwork.com**
Website : **www.igma.tv**

LBP SERVICE CORPORATION
Committed to the people we serve

A prestigious manpower solutions and contract service provider, is in need of the following personnel:

ACCOUNTING STAFF / BOOKKEEPER
- Graduate of BS Accountancy
- Not more than 30 yrs old
- Proficient in MS Excel & other spreadsheet applications

CIVIL ENGINEER / SENIOR ENGINEERING ASSISTANT
- Applicants must be a Licensed Civil Engineer
- Must have at least one (1) year relevant work experience

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER
- Applicants must be a Licensed Electrical Engineer
- Must possess at least five (5) years relevant work experience

ECONOMIST
- Graduate of BS Economics
- Candidate must possess at least one (1) year relevant experience in economic analysis.

DATA ANALYST
- Must be a graduate of Accountancy, preferably CPA
- Must have at least one (1) year work experience in Auditing

GENERAL CLERK / ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
- Graduate of any business course
- Proficient in MS Office or Adobe
- Has at least one (1) year relevant work experience.

HR ASSISTANT
- Graduate of BS Psychology
- Candidate must have excellent scholastic records

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER
- Graduate of Industrial Engineering
- Adept in conducting Time & Motion Studies & Process Mapping

MARKETING ASSISTANT
- Graduate of Marketing, Mass Communication & Advertising
- Has extensive background in market research and strategies

PRODUCT SPECIALIST
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Sales & Marketing, Medical Science, Medicine or equivalent
- Possesses in-depth knowledge of trends in Respiratory Therapeutic areas and other therapy options

QUALITY ASSURANCE STAFF
- Must be least college level
- Experience in quality control or production is an advantage

SALES EXECUTIVE
- Graduate of any 4-year Business related course
- Must have excellent communication skills, strong customer orientation and driving skills
- Must have at least 1 year work experience in selling premium products

WAREHOUSE CUSTODIAN
- Must be least college level, preferably undergraduate of Accountancy
- Work experience in Inventory Management is an advantage.

Interested applicants may visit our office at the
Unit C & D 21/F Petron Megaplaza Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.
For inquiries feel free to contact us at **(02) 8432077 loc 214**
You may also send your applications to: **lbpsc_recruitment@yahoo.com**

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The country's most widely read and circulated newspaper is in need of:

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

ACCOUNTING GRADUATES

QUALIFICATIONS:
- College degree holder in Accounting
- With at least 6 months to 1 year experience in Accounts receivables and/or Credit and collection work
- Knowledge of MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- Can work under pressure and with minimum supervision

SYSTEMS ANALYST / PROGRAMMER

QUALIFICATIONS:
- College degree holder in Computer Science or Computer Engineering with a business background
- 1 to 2 years experience as systems analyst / programmer
- Must have work experience in Powerbuilder, MS SQL 2000, Sybase SQL or other Relational Database Management System. Knowledge in Visual Basic, VB Scripting, Perl Scripting is an advantage.
- Can work with minimal supervision

HR CLERK

QUALIFICATIONS:
- College graduate preferably major in Psychology or Behavioral Science
- With at least 6 months experience in recruitment or benefits process
- Service-oriented and can work in minimum supervision

AUDIT ASSISTANT

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Accounting graduate preferably Certified Public Accountant
- Knowledge of Financial Data Analysis, Taxation and Labor Laws
- At least 2 years experience in auditing/computer audit
- Knowledge of General Accounting & Auditing Principles and Procedures
- Knowledge of Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing

RECORDS CLERK

QUALIFICATIONS:
- College graduate preferably Accounting major
- 1 year experience in similar field
- Knowledge of basic computer operations

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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THE HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc.
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

A LAW FIRM based in Makati is in need of the following:

A) **Lawyers**
B) **Bookkeeper**
C) **Receptionist**
D) **Messenger**
E) **Encoder/Typists**

Interested parties are requested to submit resumé to:

Suites 1511-12 Cityland 10 Tower I
Ayala Avenue corner Dela Costa Street
Makati City

MARIA MONTESSORI CHILDREN'S SCHOOL FOUNDATION, INC.
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If you
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- can be forthright and objective about your strengths and areas for improvement,
- are willing to try new things and are open to new ideas,
- speak fluent English and are proficient in written English,
- have a sense of humor,
- are physically fit,
- are computer-comfortable,
- are currently enrolled in a Teacher Certificate Program or are scheduled to take or have passed the Professional Licensure Examination for teachers,
- have completed an undergraduate course,
- are at least 21 but not older than 35 years of age,

then our school is the place for you to put your skills and talents to use and test yourself to see if you have what it takes to be a good Montessori teacher.

Send a letter of application to: THE ELEMENTARY COORDINATOR
Maria Montessori Children's School Foundation, Inc.
Madrid Street, Merville Park, Parañaque City 1700

or email it to: **mmcsfi@i-manila.com.ph**

DO NOT send any other documents at this time. We will contact you if you are considered for hiring and may request additional documentation and information after the interview is done.

SALES ASSISTANT

CONSUMER GOODS COMPANY SPECIALIZING IN FOOD PRODUCTS IS LOOKING FOR ONE (1) MALE OR FEMALE, COLLEGE GRADUATE, MUST KNOW HOW TO DRIVE, PREFERABLY WITH BACKGROUND OR EXPERIENCE IN FROZEN DAIRY PRODUCTS

- JOB INVOLVES SUPPORTING SALES SPECIALISTS AND DEALER ORGANIZATION
- INTERACTING WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN SECURING PERMITS AND LICENSES
- MUST BE CUSTOMER FOCUSED AND ORIENTED

IF YOU POSSESS THESE QUALIFICATIONS, SEND US YOUR BIO-DATA BY EMAIL (megatln@yahoo.com) OR BY FAX NO. 712-2581.

Permanently looking for a permanent job?

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Prime Manpower, a Manpower affiliate, the global leader in the employment services industry, offers you the opportunities you are looking for in your career.

Finance Manager — PL51307-1
Successful candidate will be responsible for financial planning and analysis for all operations in the Philippines. Must be a graduate of Accounting/Finance/ Economics and a CPA. Previous experience in handling a finace team and knowledge in Hyperion Essbase and MS Access are an advantage.

SAP Functional Team Leader — PL51307-2
You must have at least 2 years experience managing a team of SAP resources whether in business/consulting/applications support role. At least 2 full-cycle SAP implementation experience with exposure to at least 1 SAP support project in a managerial capacity. Must be SAP certified in any SAP core modules. Bachelor's degree in any field is required.

Web Programmers — PL51307-3
You are required to have HTML and ASP classic programming experience, good understanding of MS SQL and mySQL and advanced knowledge of web protocols and programming requirements. You must have a bachelor's degree in Computer Enginnering/Science or equivalent.

Reports Developer — PL51307-4
Position requires you to have strong SQL server skills, including the ability to write stored procedures using T-SQL. Other technical skills required: Visio, VBS scripting, SQL server 2000/2005. Must be experienced in developing and maintaining schemas, reporting and data analytics. Excellent oral and written English communication and troubleshooting skills are required.

Systems Engineers — PL51307-5
At least 2 years experience in server implementation and maintenance is required for this position. Strong knowledge in Windows operating system in active directory and group policies. Technical project management ability and 2 years work experience in a 24/7 IT production environment are a must.

J2EE Analyst Programmers — PL51307-6
Must have a bachelor's degree in any IT-related course. Required knowledge and experience: J2EE frameworks and open source libraries, Java/J2EE, object-oriented development, creation of web application using JSP. Must have at least 3 years work experience. Banking knowledge is a plus.

Business Development Officers — MRPO51307-08
Successful candidates must possess a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering/ Business Studies/Sales & Marketing. At least 2 years experience in the related field is required. You will develop marketing & sales strategies to achieve strategic revenue objectives for manufacturing and project management solutions.

Business Manager — MRPO51307-07
Position requires you to be able to identify business oppportunities and acquire new business. At least 3 years related work experience. Should have a strong knowledge in the use of Internet and other new media technologies as you will oversee online marketing campaigns and work closely with the creative team. You will also coordinate project activities between regional offices. Must be a graduate of Marketing/Business/IT related Mass Communication.

Web Developers — MRPO51307-09
Must have a bachelor's degree in Computer Science/IT or equivalent. Strong development experience in deploying enterprise based web applications using C#, ASP.NET, ADO.NET, Custom Control development, TSQL, XML/XSLT and other Microsoft development technologies. Working knowledge of Java Script, CSS, Microsoft Visual Studio.NET 2003, SQL and HTML are also required.

Systems Administrators — MRPO51307-10
Bachelor's degree in Computer Science/Engineering is required. Must have a strong know-how in web-based client-server applications (Java) and must be proficient in Windows 2000/2003/Linux systems administration. Must have experience in data analysis/design, system design, enterprise application integration, software testing and SQL server 2000 database administration.

Application Developers — MRPO51307-11
You are required to have at least 3 years experience in application development using Visual Basic, C# and ASP.NET. Should have a strong knowledge of object oriented and service oriented software architectures, relational database concepts preferably Microsoft SQL 2000/2003 and Microsoft Office suite of applications. Bachelor's degree in MIS or Computer Science is required.

For full details on these and other positions, or to apply online, please visit **www.primemanpower.com**
You may also apply personally or send your resume to:

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GEODETIC ENGINEERS	HRD MANAGER
MINING ENGINEERS	HRD SUPERVISOR
SAFETY ENGINEERS	HRD ASSISTANT
PLANNER / SCHEDULER	ADMIN OFFICER
QA/QC ENGINEERS	PURCHASING ASSISTANT
INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERS	SECRETARIES / CLERKS
ARCHITECTS	STOCKCLERKS
CADD OPERATORS	TIMEKEEPERS
EQUIPMENT ENGINEER	PROJECT NURSES
PIPING ENGINEER	SURVEYORS

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Tel. No. 841-0841 Email Application at: jobs@dmcinet.com

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V.L. Makabali Memorial Hospital, Inc.

" A Tradition of 50 years of Service "

We are a premier healthcare facility in San Fernando, Pampanga which offers services for OB-Gyne, Neonatal Intensive Care, Pediatrics, Family Medicine, Emergency Room Services, X-ray Laboratory, Surgery, Intensive Care, Anesthesia, Nuclear Medicine, Nephrology, Pathology and Endoscopy. Brachytherapy, the very first cancer treatment facility in Central Luzon and the only DEXA or bone densitometry in Central Luzon, an x-ray technology that is used to measure bone loss. With our commitment to excellent service and the need for expansion of units, we are currently in need of dedicated Healthcare Team members to share in our passion and legacy of service:

Head Nurses and Clinical Supervisors
- PRC Certified
- With hospital experience, in the same capacity
- 28 – 40 years old/male or female

Certified Public Accountant
- PRC Certified
- With relevant experience
- 25-35 years old, male or female

Human Resource Personnel
- Psychology or Behavioral Science graduate
- Good in oral and written communication
- With at least two years experience in Personnel Management and People Development
- Not more than 30 years old Male or Female

Executive Secretary (Administrative Staff)
- Office Management graduate
- Good in oral and written communication
- Personable; With 1-2 years working experience

Medical Technologists
Radiologic Technologists
Pharmacists
- PRC Certified
- Preferably with hospital experience
- 22 – 28 years old/male or female

Staff Nurses (Client Care Staff)
- PRC Certified
- Hospital experience in special units, an advantage but not required
- 22 – 28 years old/ male or female

Patient Care Technicians/ Caregivers
- Patient Care Technician course or Caregiver course graduate
- Preferably Male with experience

The above positions require dedication and commitment to work, excellent client relations skills and keenness for details.
New board passers are welcome to apply.

Applications will only be entertained until May 31, 2007.

Interested parties may submit personally or send their comprehensive resumé to:

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
V.L. Makabali Memorial Hospital Inc.
B. Mendoza St., City of San Fernando, Pampanga
or Email us at: **makabali@pldtdsl.net**
For queries, you may call us at:
(045) 961-2234, 961-2442, 961-2616, 961-2284

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PLEASE APPLY IN PERSON AT:
158 P. SEVILLA ST., BETWEEN 6TH & 7TH AVES., GRACE PARK, CALOOCAN CITY.
BRING RESUMÉ W/ 2x2 COLORED PHOTO; NBI CLEARANCE

A Few Good Men & Women Needed

(ACADEMIC)

DEANS
Responsible in rendering quality education to the students for the attainment of the AMACC mission; conducting evaluation procedures to assess teaching performance of faculty members and to ensure that quality education is being rendered without compromise.

School of Nursing
- Registered Nurse
- Earned Masters Degree in Nursing, major in Administration and Supervision or any related field
- Minimum of 5 years experience in teaching and 2 years Administrative or Managerial experience

College of Computer Studies/ College of Computer Engineering
- MS Computer Science / Information Technology / Computer Engineering / ECE graduate from reputable School
- With noteworthy publications.
- Minimum of 5 years experience in teaching and 2 years Administrative or Managerial experience

FACULTY
College of Computer Engineering
College of Computer Science
College of Maritime Studies
- Graduate of Computer Engineering, Information Technology, Computer Science, Information Management, ECE, Marine Transportation.
- With good Scholastic records
- Teaching/mentoring experience is an advantage.
- Related license is necessary for Accountancy and ECE Faculty position applicants
- Preferably graduate of any related Masters/PhD degrees or has at least 18 MA/MS units
- 5 years practice in the area of specialization is an advantage

ENGLISH LANGUAGE OFFICER/ PART-TIME CHINESE-ENGLISH TEACHER
- At least 1 year experience as an English Teacher.
- Chinese language proficient oral and written.
- Preferably with MA Degree, TESL or relevant language education.

(NON-ACADEMIC)
PROGRAMMERS
- Graduate of System Development/ Computer Programming course from a highly reputable school
- With at least 6 months actual system development/programming experience
- Must have knowledge of MS SQL, ASP programming, Java and Web/ Portal development
- Highly adaptable and independent Graphic design experience is an advantage

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIANS
- Must have a Masters degree in Library Science

ACCOUNTING / AUDIT SUPERVISOR
- Graduate of BS Accountancy
- Has 6 months related work experience
- For Audit Supervisor applicants, supervisory experience in Auditing is a must
- Preferably Certified Public Accountants (CPA's)

Please email your application letter and your updated resumé to: amaeshrd@amaes.edu.ph

Please indicate the position title applied for as subject of your e-mail or through snail mail addressed to:

The Corporate Human Resources
AMA Group of Companies
#59 Panay Avenue, Quezon City

RESORT MANAGER

abacá boutique resort + restaurant

JOB DESCRIPTION
abacá boutique resort + restaurant is a stylish luxury boutique resort with modern facilities and a terrific beachfront location. We are looking for a **RESORT MANAGER** with pre-opening experience to build a team and effectively manage the resort at a **5-star international level** of excellence.

JOB REQUIREMENTS
Interested candidates must have at least three years of resort management experience with 5-star hotels and operations. The right candidate will have a polished presentation, and the right approach in handling the needs of distinguished guests. It is important that interested candidates have a track record in anticipating guest needs and acting on them in a timely manner. The candidate must possess exceptional communication skills; fine attention to details and strong organizational skills. Must be able to work under pressure and have the ability to make appropriate decisions based on operational needs.

Willing to consider an applicant with assistant manager experience ready for advancement in their career.

DUTIES INCLUDE
Managing and scheduling a staff of 40
Recruitment and training of staff
Creation and Implementation of Standard Operating Procedures

COMPENSATION PACKAGE
profit sharing
higher than average salary
full company health insurance
housing
mobile phone allowance

SEND COMPLETE CV IN CONFIDENCE TO:

abacá boutique resort + restaurant
punta engano road, mactan island
CEBU
relax@abacaresort.com
63.32.495.8456
63.32.495.1378 fax

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- male/female, not more than 35yrs, aggressive & goal oriented
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- well groomed, good command of written and oral communication
- *be a part of the booming and exciting call center industry!*

Dealer Channel Executives
(Mobile & A/V Accessories)
- male/female, not more than 35yrs, aggressive & goal oriented
- performance driven, motivated, goal oriented, good relationship skills
- experience in dealer sales of electronics or IT products an advantage

Electronics Technicians
- Male,not more than 30 years old, can drive motorcycle an advantage
- Min 2 years of any Technical course
- trouble shooting skills & can interpret schematic diagram
- Repair & QC of all types of office automation & telecom products

Personally bring resume with picture to 5/F Enterprise Bldg., 524 Q. Paredes St., Binondo, Manila (near Binondo Church and above Banco de Oro) or email resume with picture to **bgroupinc@gmail.com**

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

SALES REPRESENTATIVES (6)
- Female / Male; 23-35 yrs. old
- Preferably with sales experience
- Must have a good inter - personal skills; a team player
- Must be able to handle customer complaints smoothly
- Computer literate (MS Word/ Excel/ Powerpoint)
- Graduate of any business/ management related course
- Must be physically fit to travel nationwide

GRAPHIC ARTIST / PRINTER OPERATORS (20)
- Female / Male; 23-35 yrs. old
- Fine Arts graduate or undergraduate or any computer related course
- Artistically inclined is an advantage
- Must be proficient in Adobe Photoshop & Corel Draw
- Willing to be stationed in outlets / branches
- Must be able to work in extreme pressures

Interested parties may submit resume personally with 2x2 picture from Mon-Fri, 1:00-4:00 pm only. (All Graphic Artist should bring their portfolio) Look for Ruby Joy.

Columbia Digital Sales Company
129-135 G. Roxas SFDM, Quezon City Philippines
Tel #: (02) 365-0892; 413-9505 Trunk Lines: 366-1873; 365-0927; 363-3876
Fax #: 366-8266; 363-7465 Website: www.columbiadgital.net

TNT

INSIDE SALES EXECUTIVE

This position will be tasked to achieve profitable revenue growth through the development, over the telephone, of long-term customer relationships enabling retention and acquisition of new business.

Job Qualifications:
- College Degree in Business or equivalent.
- With at least 1 year sales experience and proven track record in achieving sales targets.
- Extensive PC knowledge (Word, Excel & Powerpoint)
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Required skill(s): experience in account sales/negotiating, understanding of sales processes and procedures
- Sales and selling skills – listening, assertiveness, empathy, persuasion, perseverance and market orientation

For an application form and further details:

Phone:
Email:
Web:

Jessi Quiambao
Recruitment Specialist

A labor-intensive company with offices nationwide with approximately 800 employees is in immediate need of:

LAWYERS
- Male/Female
- Must have been in law practice for about 3-4 years
- With experience as litigation lawyer

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
- Male/Female, at least 30 years old;
- Computer literate
- Preferably with 2 years experience in supervisory level;
- Well versed in all aspects of accounting documents, methods and procedures

This is an urgent requirement and we offer an attractive benefit package to qualified candidates. Interested applicants may send their application letter and resumé immediately to:

The Personnel Manager
626 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
or send resumé at:
csa_hrd@hotmail.com

URGENTLY NEEDED

PERSONAL ASSISTANT (PA)
- Must be Female
- 18 to 25 years of age
- Pleasing personality
- Good speaking and writing English
- Knowledgeable in Computer

Interviews will be held in Edsa Shangrila Plaza Hotel

Submit resumé to **jimbruno92@yahoo.com**

A UK based global consulting company is seeking for its Manila Office a

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT

Significant career opportunity for a young professional.

- You will be an energetic young professional with an enthusiasm and a passion for winning work.
- You will preferably have an engineering background with about 5 year's experience.
- Your English verbal and written communication skills will be top quality.
- You will have excellent interpersonal skills.
- You will be a team player but also a self starter able to manage your own workload.
- You will feel comfortable working with our professionals in other countries and communicating with our clients at all levels of their organization.
- You will be computer literate and willing to work long hours to meet deadlines.

Applicants may send their comprehensive resumé with picture not later than 25 May 2007.

P.O. Box 170
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City

A WELL REPUTED SPORTS/FITNESS RETAILER AND TRADER NEEDS:

TECHNICIAN - Well experienced; having knowledge to fix all types of electrical exercising/fitness machines & billiard & snooker table. He should also work as a salesman when not doing the above work.

ACCOUNTANT - Well experienced; with good command over computer; should be able to handle computerized embroidery/cutting plotters machine.

SCREEN PRINTER - who will be handling the complete process single handed. He should also work as a salesman when not doing the above work.

PLEASE CONTACT:
M/S JUMA'A AL MUSAFIR EST
FAX: 00968-24784492
EMAIL: **jmusafir@omantel.net.com**

SPURGEON SCHOOL FOUNDATION, INC.
Is in Need of **Teachers** for the following subjects:
- English
- Civics
- MAPEH
- Filipino

Requirements:
1. BEED Graduate
2. L.E.T. Passer
3. 21-35 years old
4. Member of an Evangelical Church
5. Computer Literate

Interested applicants may submit personally their Comprehensive Resumé to the Office of the School Director for Interview and Demo Teaching.

140 H.V. Dela Costa St., cor. Tordesillas
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel. #892-5892

We are engaged in importation of automotive accessories, we need an individual who wants to grow with the company.

SECRETARY

Graduate of any 4-year course, with experience in office-related work, Female, Can speak English fluently, must not be more than 30 years of age.

All interested qualified applicants are instructed to send their resumé with 2x2 picture at:

8 Marvex Drive A. Bonifacio, Balintawak, Quezon City
or via email: hrd_wcorp@yahoo.com

DOCKET/RECORDS OFFICER
SECRETARY
RECEPTIONIST
- preferably with law firm experience

Submit your resumé at humanresources.lawfirm@gmail.com or by fax at 637-2887

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E-mail: spanlilio@inquirer.com.ph; jreyes@inquirerpublications.ph

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Mech'l Design Engineers

Designing & Engineering work of Forklift truck component for the **Japanese company** belonging to **Sumitomo group.**

Up to 28 years old.
Male or Female
have good ability for above job with us.

send complete **Resumé with colored picture.**

SUMINAC PHILIPPINES, INC.
Blk. 2, Lot 5 & 6,Phase 3, FCIE,
Bgy. Langkaan, Dasmarinas, Cavite
Tel No. : (046) 402-0760 **(Abby Ramirez)**

URGENT JOB OPENING

Abu Dhabi, Construction Company

- QS Engineer (5)
- Aluminum Fab&Fitter (10)
- Carpenter (20)
- Electrician (12)
- Plumbers (18)
- HVAC (8)
- Tile Setter (10)
- Draughtsman (10)

Qualifications: Male, 25-55 years old, must have 4 yrs or more related working experience.

New Zealand, Utility & Airline Company

- High Voltage Linemen (2,000usd)(3)
- Aircraft Engine Techs (3,000usd) (5)

Qualifications: Male, 25-55 years old, must have 5 yrs or more related working experience. Aircraft tech certs for P&W, GE, RR.

Oman, Reputable Hospital

- Doctors (5,000usd) (5)
- Ward Nurses (1,800usd) (3)

Qualifications: Male/Female above 25 years of age, with 3 years or more experience.

Other : Al Tariaq Trading Services Oman
Acre#:10050C89/10052570

- Salesman (10) (w/ Real Estate Exp.)
- Saleslady (10) (w/ Real Estate Exp.)
- Male/Female Accountant (5) (w/ Quickbooks Exp.)

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1. SINGLE, MALE/FEMALE NOT OVER 25 YEARS OLD W/ PLEASING PERSONALITY
2. FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE GRADUATE, MAJOR IN ACCOUNTING WITH GOOD SCHOLASTIC RECORDS
3. WITH WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF MS WORD AND EXCEL
4. HONEST, HARDWORKING AND DEPENDABLE
5. WITH 6 MONTHS – 1 YEAR WORK EXPERIENCE

SUBMIT APPLICATION LETTER, RESUMÉ WITH PICTURE & TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS TO **MALAYSIA AIRLINES**, 23RD FLOOR, LKG TOWER, 6801 AYALA AVENUE, MAKATI CITY 1227
OR E-MAIL TO ***masmnl@pldtdsl.net*** ***mhmnlaccts@skyinet.net***
DEADLINE: MAY 27, 2007

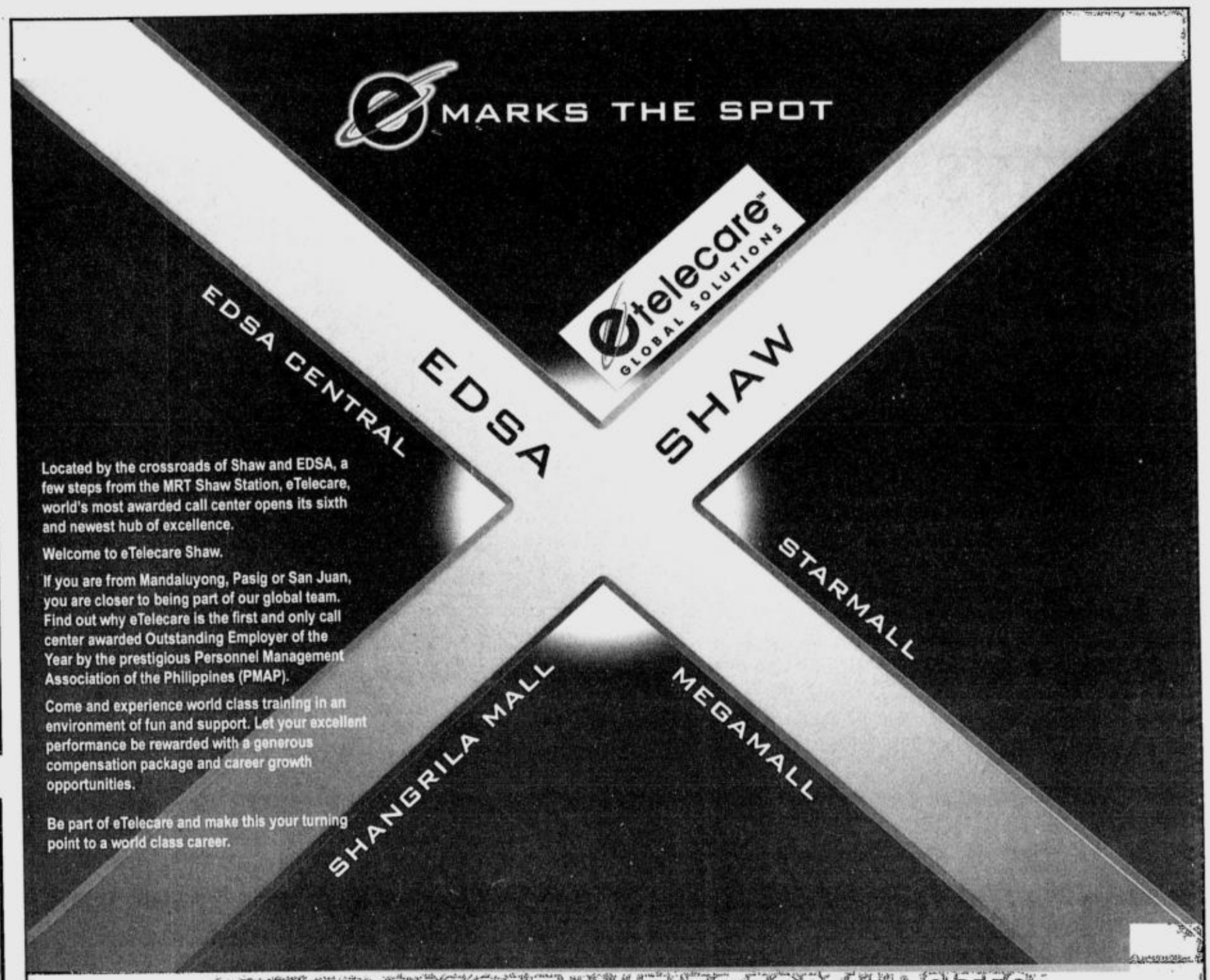
LOOKING FOR:
PROMO PERSONNEL

For Leading Appliance Company!

- Female/Male
- 18-26 years old
- College Level/College Graduate
- Preferably with background in sales: (appliance or non-appliance industry)
- Pleasing Personality
- At least 5'2" in height for Female
- At least 5"6" in height for Male

Interested applicants may apply at:

203-A 2nd Flr. Summit One Tower
530 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
or Call: 02-535-0538
Look for Ms. Manette



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL SITES

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Process Specialist
Sr. Process Specialist
Sr. Process Auditor
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2/F CyberOne Bldg. Eastwood, Libis	Upper G/F Annex@Shaw Shaw Blvd. cor. EDSA	12/F PBCom Tower Ayala Ave., Makati	G/F Plaz@ A Bldg. Northgate Cyberzone Filinvest Corporate City	G/F i2 Bldg. Asiatown IT Park Lahug, Cebu City

IMMEDIATE HIRING

- **OPERATIONS MANAGER**
* At least 5 years working experience as operations manager or its equivalent with extensive knowledge in electronic gadgets & handling people.
- **MARKETING MANAGER**
* At least 5 years working experience as a marketing manager or its equivalent with extensive knowledge in electronic gadgets, created numerous successful marketing plans and must be familiar with different provincial destinations.
- **PRODUCT MANAGER**
* At least 5 years working experience as a product manager or its equivalent with extensive knowledge in electronic gadgets
- **EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**
* Fluent in Mandarin/Fookien, English & Filipino (both oral and written communication) Female, 20-30 years old
- **TRAINOR**
* At least 2 years experience as a trainer; must be familiar with office procedures, marketing strategies and different electronic gadgets.
- **STORE SUPERVISOR**
* Female, At least 1 year working experience as a store supervisor, knowledge in basic accounting, computer literate, handling people with strong marketing/sales background.
- **RECEPTIONIST**
* Female, 18-27 yrs old w/ pleasing personality
- **SALES CLERK**
* Female, 18-27 yrs old w/ pleasing personality

Interested applicants may apply at:

HUG Always ... You

ALEX LINCOLN TRONIXX CORPORATION
16-C Petron Megaplaza, 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
OR E-mail your resumé w/ 2x2 picture at hug.info@gmail.com

PERPETUAL SUCCOR HOSPITAL & MATERNITY INC.
We are inviting you to join us in providing quality individualized healthcare at a better value.

CHIEF NURSE: RN with MAN, 5 years solid nursing experience in hospital setting, able to handle critical emergency cases, with at least 2 years supervisory experience, must be able to interact well at all levels of the organization, excellent written and oral communication skills
RESIDENT PHYSICIANS: licensed doctors, female (for OB) / male (for IM)
NURSES: licensed, experience in the OR an advantage
MIDWIVES: licensed, preferably single
MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST: licensed, preferably single
RADIOLOGY TECHNOLOGIST (ON-CALL): licensed, male / female, residence must be in the same vicinity of the hospital
ADMINISTRATIVE / DOCUMENTATION ASSISTANT: graduate of any four year course, must have a strong background in research, possess above average communication skills oral & written, can type at least 20 wpm, knowledge of ISO Documentation an advantage
ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK (PHILHEALTH, RECORDS, INFORMATION, PAYROLL): graduates of any 4-year course (e.g. Psychology, Business Management, HRM, Tourism, Accounting et.al.), customer service oriented, willing to do clerical tasks, experience is an advantage, can type at least 20 wpm.
MIS STAFF: graduate of any 4-year IT course, must have working knowledge on SQL, Visual Foxpro, LANetworking and troubleshooting computer hardware.
HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR: graduate of HRM, Electricity or Air-conditioning, strong leadership skills, will be responsible for monitoring cleanliness and sanitation as well as the performance of the maintenance staff.
MAINTENANCE / ORDERLIES: at least high school graduate, able bodied, experience an advantage

Candidates must be computer literate, have good communication & interpersonal skills, highly customer service oriented and can work in a fast paced environment with shifting schedules (for medical staff). Interested applicants may apply in person or send their comprehensive resume, credentials & recent 2x2 picture to:

Human Resources Department
Perpetual Succor Hospital & Maternity Inc.
836 Florentino Cayco St., Sampaloc, Manila
Tel. No. 731-5776 or Telefax No. 7315778
Look for Arlene / Jhoanne / Fatima
Email: fatimareyes_hrdpshm@yahoo.com

The NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF COOPERATIVES (NATCCO)
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- Preferably a Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- At least 5 years experience in a managerial / supervisory post
- Strong leadership / management skills
- Excellent communication skills

Internal Auditor
- A Certified Public Accountant
- At least 5 years relevant experience in Audit
- Excellent communication skills

(2) Business Development Officers
- Graduate of MBA or business related course
- At least 5 years related work experience
- Computer literate
- Excellent communication skills

Hostel and Canteen Supervisor
- Graduate of Hotel and Restaurant Management Course
- At least 3 years related experience in a supervisory post
- Excellent communication skills

Senior Programmer / Analyst
- Graduate of Computer Science or any IT –related course
- High Proficiency in Visual Basic 6.0, MS SQL, Server, Crystal Reports
- Knowledge in stored procedures, ADO
- Experience in full software development cycle
- With technical documentation skills
- Team player

Junior Accounting Officers
- Graduate of BS in Accountancy
- High computer literacy
- Good communication skills
- Willing to travel

Administrative Assistant
- Graduate of Commerce or Management Course
- Computer literate
- Proficient in verbal and written communication

Applicants may send their resumé and application letter to: **hr@natcco.coop**

JOBMarket
WORKING PEOPLE
SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2007
E-mail: workingpeople@inquirer.com.ph.
Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino
Text us your feedback: inquirer paw name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

5 ways to wear office casuals with élan

By Ma. Esther Salcedo–Posadas
Contributor

DURING THE LAST COUPLE of decades, there has been an emergence of more casual wear at the office, a practice that started in the United States. In the Philippines, it started with "Casual Fridays" wherein offices allowed their employees to "dress down" on the last working day of the week.

The proliferation of call centers in the country further promoted casual wear in the work place. In fact, you may already have noticed that some job classifieds even promote their company as among those that allow casual attire at work.

The trend towards casual wear has also affected office culture and behavior. While "dressing as you please" allows for some movement and flexibility, it has also led to abuses in conduct. For example, due to a very relaxed atmosphere, inhibitions are diminished and some workers could easily become sloppy or uncouth.

Casual wear can still be worn elegantly, if done with some careful thought. The buzzword at the office is to wear smart casual. Following are some suggestions:

Choose good jewelry. The perfect way to complement your wardrobe would be to wear elegant jewelry. Nowadays, it doesn't have to cost much to wear real pearls, even just fresh water pearls. Invest in a good piece of jewelry and avoid plastic or cheap imitations.

No rubber shoes please. If you can help it, try to avoid being overly casual at the workplace. Manage your image well by considering the message you are sending with the clothes you wear. While shirts and jeans may be the most comfortable form of clothing, the image it presents is quite ingénue. If you are looking at moving up the corporate ladder, smart casual dressing (vs overly casual attire) is a style that can be appreciated by everyone, both young and old colleagues.

Avoid tight-fitting clothes. To look smart in casual clothes, you need to aim for a polished and professional look. This means that you maintain proper decorum and present yourself with the right professional image. Take a look at yourself in the mirror and check how you fit into your most comfortable clothes. Don't neglect appearance over comfort. Avoid ill-fitting clothes that are either too lose or hug your body tightly.

Consider the total look of your wardrobe. Even if you are just wearing a simple shirt, it should be worn in such a way that it does not bring attention to your body (but should match the whole look and lead a person to look at your face). If you are wearing tight fitting jeans, cover the buttocks area so that it is not so distracting.

Bring attention to your face. Your face pretty much represents your unique personality. Try to ensure that your clothes do not distract the viewer from actually appreciating what you have to offer as a person. Maintain your dignity at all times. Choose clothes that will enhance your overall appearance with the face as your central point of interest. As a professional, you would want to ensure that people actually respect you. Through the clothes you wear, you can bring out that message.

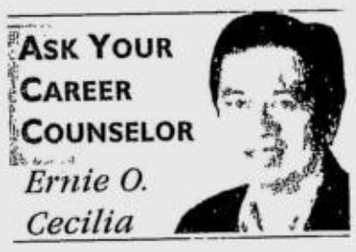
Keep your underwear secret. As the name implies, underwear is supposed to be hidden and worn under your clothes. Make sure that bra straps are in place. Depending on the style you are wearing, you may have to pin your bra strap under your blouse. This is also one reason why tight fitting clothes are not acceptable. It is quite unbecoming for a lady to have her panties show through her pants. As said earlier, avoid distractions.

Always remember that what you wear sends out a message to everyone. Discover your unique personality and let others see, through the clothes you wear, what a great person you really are.

(The author trained on image consulting with Elegance in Style in Maryland, USA. She also attended a fashion design course at the Academy of Art College in San Francisco.)

'I don't want to retire yet . . .'

I AM DUE FOR COMPULSORY retirement by end of next year, but I don't think I am ready for it. First, we still have three children in college and we need continuous family income to support their schooling. Second, I am not psychologically prepared to abruptly stop working. I have been working for over 40 years now, and it is unthinkable to suddenly stop what I do. Third, I don't know what to do with my life after retirement. I wish I can continue to work, as I am still physically and mentally fit for work. I do not see myself going into business, as I have no entrepreneurial inclination or training. I believe I can live for another 20 productive years if only there is something significant for me to do. Can you give me some ideas on what to do after I retire?
Apprehensive Retiree



You are in great company. There are millions of Filipinos feeling the same way you do. In fact, there are thousands more who took early or compulsory retirement and are still willing and able to work. To many of them, it is the psychological, not financial, impact of retirement that was difficult to handle. As Ernest Hemingway said, "Retirement is the ugliest word in the language."

Longer life

In 1900, life expectancy was 47—today it's 77. In a generation or two, it could be 88. You go to your doctor today for a checkup. There's creaking in your knees, sight and hearing loss, and lower back pain, but he says, "You're going to live to be 100." That is now possible!

Science has found a way to extend life span. The real bonanza is healthspan. It is about adding quality years in the middle of life. We see 60-year olds today who feel, think, act, and work as if they're 40.

Likewise, 80-year olds come across as 60-year olds. Technology can now manipulate normal changes in the aging process to prevent loss of physical strength and memory. With this, you can rewrite the script of your life in practically every aspect—work, family, politics and even sex.

Elderly notions

Here's the rub. Despite all the good news about extending life span, we live in a culture focused on "youth." On one hand, our country has a very young population. On the other, we have ingrained notions about what it means to be old. Society's concept of the elderly has not kept pace with the new concept of health span.

Here's the old mold of our parents—work from 21 to 65, retire and die shortly afterward. If you accept that, it will be the way for you to go.

But if you go around smashing old rules of aging, you can create new standards of development late in your life.

Elderly accomplishments

The best years of one's life could very well be after his 60's. It is said that 66 percent of the greatest achievements in the world were made by people who passed their 60th year. About 35 percent were done by those between 60 and 70; 23 percent by those between 70 and 80; and 8 percent after 80.

The following are common stories of glory beyond the golden year: Harland

Sanders started his KFC empire at age 66, after 55 years of labor and nothing to show. A paper cup salesman named Ray Kroc started the McDonald franchise at age 52. Michaelangelo painted the famous Sistine Chapel between ages 71 and 89. Coco Chanel was still running her fashion company at age 85. Picasso was still actively doing masterpieces in his 90s.

Redefine career

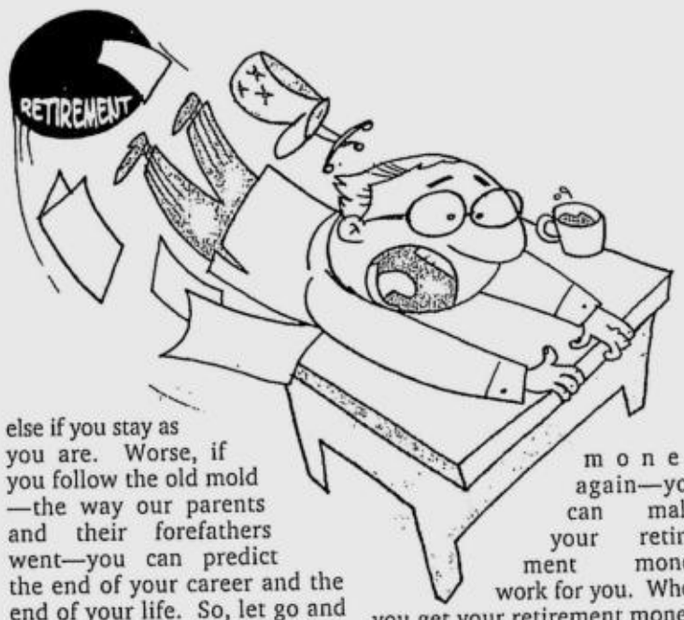
If you want to have a truly meaningful life even after you retire from a job, you must have a clear definition of what a career means to you.

Early on, I realized that my career is not just a job, but my defining purpose, the core of my being. After 25 years in corporate human resources, I thought I had to move on to another phase of my career. My career did not end when I ceased to have a job. I moved to another phase. George Vaillant of the Harvard Study of Adult Development talks of career consolidation. By 50 or 60, you must be through with earlier stages of identity and intimacy. Vaillant suggests that you let go a little. You branch out and you widen your focus, instead of narrowing it.

Letting go

It will be difficult for you to move on if you keep doing the same things over and over. After retirement, some people change very little. They stay in the same type of work, live in the same house, and meet the same people. Others, like me, change in most ways—what they do, where they live, who they live with, their circle of friends, how they spend their time, etc.

The idea is to reinvent yourself. You cannot be something else if you stay as you are. Worse, if you follow the old mold—the way our parents and their forefathers went—you can predict the end of your career and the end of your life. So, let go and explore what's in store for you.



Andre Gide once said, "Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore."

Giving to others

A common path of successful professionals, businessmen, and entrepreneurs is a key developmental task called Generativity. Vaillant describes this as "empathetic leadership." It is the task of giving of yourself to others, of giving back to society something in return for what you received early in your career. You cease to have a need for achievement—you long for human connection, for making a difference. As Vaillant would say, "You become a Keeper of the Meaning, a steward of culture, the wise storyteller who preserves the moral narrative to guide future generations." Who knows, but you can find your spiritual center?

Paths to maturity

Gene Cohen, founder of the Washington DC Center on Aging, divides the path to maturity into phases. He calls the phase "when you question what you're doing, the Midlife Reevaluation (40s and 50s). There's the Liberation phase when you get freedom and courage to break out of the box (50s and 60s). When you figure it out, it's the Late-Life Summing Up phase (60-plus). Many people experience the Encore phase with a burst of energy and creativity."

Entrepreneurship

The usual path chosen by retirees is entrepreneurship or going into business. This is good, but I have seen many who failed. Some people are simply not cut to be business persons. The good news is that running a business is a skill that can be learned. Before deciding on this path, find out first if entrepreneurship is for you. (E-mail me for a short quiz on entrepreneurship.)

After retirement, you don't have to go into business to be able to sustain your children's schooling. You don't have to work for money again—you can make your retirement money work for you. When you get your retirement money, great opportunities will open for you. You only have to be wise to choose which ones will guarantee your financial independence for the rest of your life.

I suppose that before you retire, your company will send you to a seminar on what to do after retirement. Large companies prepare prospective retirees for changes in late life. As a consultant, I also run this type of seminar.

No right path

There is no one right path to take for all. Each can make his own plan, draw a trajectory different from others, and live the life he chooses. Perhaps, you don't even want to change, if the status quo is all right with you. Just do what you want to do. But when you get the feeling of weariness, it's a signal that you might want to plan something else for the rest of your life.

We found out how abundant the aging talent is when we organized the Asian Executive Services Organization of the Philippines (Aesop) in 1999. Quite a few members found their way back into the mainstream corporate world as full time or part time employees or consultants.

Reality bites

Reality bites. When nearing retirement, you face an involuntary end to your career. You sense an uncertain future. You return to a home without the kids you raised. You play a different role. Give yourself plenty of time to prepare. The more prepared you are to face the coming changes, the more successful you will be in hurdling obstacles to a great life ahead in your 70s and 80s. Who knows, you could live a hundred years?

If there's any consolation, thousands in late life who will read this article will probably say to themselves, "I still don't know what to do when I grow up!"

(The author is the 1999 President of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines. He is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting

Gospel: John 14: 23-29
Jesus answered and said to him, "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him."

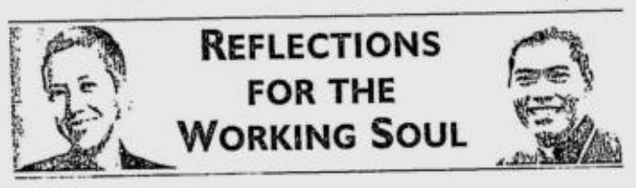
Working mothers

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

JESUS TEACHES US TO LOVE HIM AND OTHERS NOT MERELY in word but also in deed, and by "keeping His word"—doing and behaving according to His teachings. It is important therefore to learn how to live and work with love, in love and through love, which is the summary of all Jesus' teachings.

Mothers, to my mind, are among those who show concrete examples of living and working in love. When we think of them, the thoughts of sweetness, tenderness, care and all other happy and pleasurable expressions of love, come foremost in our minds. Yet, these beautiful sides of the mothers' love come at the cost of great sacrifices and hard work they go through. The gentle and pleasant feelings that mothers evoke in us are in reality, the soft face of the pains they suffer and the hard work they endure. Mothers are truly working and sacrificing beings—people who really love the way Jesus taught it.

The work that mothers do may not be considered by many as high-paying jobs; or being a mother may not be an enviable career or profession. And, even if society tries to professionalize the tasks of mothering a baby, or those housekeeping jobs which mothers usually do, a mother's love is difficult to be replicated, and a mother's heart can not be technically produced. The contribution these "working moms" lovingly give to the sound formation of the human being and to the foundation of a caring and serving society may not always receive sufficient public recognition and appreciation. But, Jesus is certainly pleased with them and we, too, salute all working and loving mothers throughout the world. *(E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net)*



Be inspired

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO HAVE GOD "DWELLING WITH" A PERSON? Can you imagine one or more of your co-workers being a person with whom God the Father and God the Son dwell? It strains the imagination to think that the Father and the Son could be in your midst, operating the copier, answering the phone, drawing up the sales chart, serving you at the canteen, driving the pay-loader, mopping the floor, gassing up your car, etc. But this doesn't mean it's impossible, that they could not be found in the workplace in the person of a co-worker.

Love is the keyword and the key. Notice the verse focus for today: "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him..." First comes the love for Jesus which is proven by the keeping of His word—by doing as He tells us, following His teaching, obeying His commands. Then comes the love of the Father for the one who loves Jesus—thus the communion takes place. The person's part is to keep the Lord's word, and in the workplace that means not only not lying, not cheating and not stealing, but also being honest, hardworking, just, cheerful, patient, self-confident, creative, obedient, peace-loving, etc.

These are not easy things to do if the only reason you are working is to earn your keep. But if you see in you the Lord Jesus to love your whole perspective of work will change. Can't see the Lord in you? Look to workers radiant with this communion with the Father and the Son—Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, John Paul II, and a host of other people of peace from whatever race, religion or culture—and be inspired. *(E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)*

Junior INQUIRER

E-mail: ji@inquirer.com.ph

SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2007 ✦ 8 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 10, NUMBER 59

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Read about Makisig's bond with his mom in "My mom and me" Page 4

It's Mom's special day!

MOMS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD are getting extra warm hugs today, and the mothers of JI readers are no exception. Kids shared with us their own special ways of making sure their moms feel the love that they deserve. Do any of these sound familiar?

After a long tiring day of being a supermom —doing household chores, being a mom to me and wife to my dad, and fixing business matters—I make my mom feel special by giving her a back massage. —**Anna Graziella Barreno**

Last weekend, my mommy got sick. I didn't leave her side, and I attended to her needs. I gave her food, water and juice, and her medicines. She told me that I was her little nurse. She's doing fine now. I keep telling her that she's the best mommy in the world!—**Chrystelle Ingrid G. Martinez**, 6 years old, Makati City

Mother's day is like a birthday for all mothers. On this day, we make sure that she doesn't have to do a lot of chores so she can rest and have fun. We buy flowers and the whole family write her a letter. We make her feel our love for her. Jhmch Phillip A. Rivera, 16 years old, Sta. Cruz, Manila

This Mother's Day, my sister and I are planning to give her roses and hug her very tight. We asked her if it were okay not to give her the cake that she wanted, and she said it was ok because it's the thought that counts. Writing this now is my gift to her, my way of saying thank you, Mama!—**Rebecca Isabel F. Salinas**, 11 years old, Marikina City

This coming Mother's Day, I plan to surprise mom by greeting her first thing in the morning. I will kiss her and give her a red rose and a letter telling her how thankful I am for having her as our mom. For dessert that day, I will give her a refrigerator cake that I will prepare a day before. Then, I will not forget to say thanks for everything she do for me.—**Aldrich Kyle Ugay**, 11 years old, Makati City

I make my mom feel special on Mother's Day by giving her a personalized card with a meaningful message and a bunch of personally hand-picked flowers. Little things, as long as they're done with love and meaning, will surely make her happy.—**Dessa Ilagan**, 11 years old, Quezon City

I know I warm my Mom's heart and bring tears to her eyes whenever I "surprise" her with clumsily-made cards during special occasions, when I show her things I have written and my artwork, and when she goes onstage when I win in contests. I never fail to hug her before going to bed each night and tell her that I love her so much.—**Maureen Isabel A. Gonzales**, 9 years old, Cauayan City, Isabela

I make my Mom feel special by trying my best in school. I know this is very important to her. I see she is very happy when I get good grades!—**Haley Christiane Hawson**, 7 years old, Caloocan City

Even though I have no budget to buy something for Mom, my gift for her is that I will do my best in everything especially in school. I will love and take care of my little brother. Through these little things, I can show my big love for my Mom. I also pray that God bless her with good health, long life, happiness and much love.—**Gabriel Gabo D. Smith**, 10 years old, Antipolo City

My Mama feels special whenever I am nice or do good things. I help her do household chores every night so most of the time we sleep late. I worry about her because she does a lot of work every night that's why I help her. When I grow up, I will give her a comfortable life because she deserves nothing but the best. —**Joselle Joy D. Asuelo**, 8 years old, Quezon City

Congratulations to the winners of our Mother's Day promo! To find out how you can claim your Glorietta movie tickets, please call Ate Diann Villafuerte at 897 8808 local 340, or email her at ji@inquirer.com.ph

WELCOME TO MY CORRAL! This is your own special space, where you can express your thoughts and feelings about anything under the sun in the form of essays, poems, letters and even illustrations!

Send all contributions to ji@inquirer.com.ph. Don't forget to indicate your full name, age and the city where you live. We'll be waiting!

Lessons from the field Journal

Andie Trinidad, 11 years old, Alabang, Muntinlupa

I'M A SOFTBALL PLAYER. IF YOU'RE WONDERING what that is, it's sort of like baseball but we use a bigger ball. And my team is an all-girl one.

Softball, like other sports, teaches you to never give up, have the spirit of sportsmanship (of course) and many more lessons in the grand school of life. Because of softball, I have made a lot of friends. Another good thing about engaging in a sport is, it helps you become physically fit.

But the most important lesson I have learned so far is to not be afraid of making mistakes. Take me, for example. I'm a klutz but I don't worry about it. You just have to be confident, smile your best smile, and who knows, you just might make a homerun!

Letters

Dear JI,

I am really interested in the Junior Inquirer. It is really fun to read. I told my dad to buy me future issues. I am sure many kids like it because it is the best kids' newspaper.

Congratulations!

—Kaya A. Guillen,
7 years old,
Oton, Iloilo

DEAR JI,

I REALLY LOVE YOUR NEWSPAPER, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT TELLS US ABOUT AMAZING THINGS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. "THINK OUT LOUD" IS REALLY COOL BECAUSE IT TELLS US SOMETHING ABOUT CHILDREN. I REALLY APPRECIATE THE "JOURNAL". I HOPE THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE YOUR AMAZING WORK!!

YOUR NO. 1 READER,
CHELSEA ANNE LEE
GR3,
ST. SCHOLASTICA'S COLLEGE MANILA

We're really happy that we're now being read by kids all over the country, Kaya! Hope you keep in touch. And we will continue bringing amazing stories to kids as long as we have avid readers like you, Chelsea!

Please call Ate Dianne Villafuerte at 897-8808 local 340 to find out how you can claim our thank-you gift.

Junior INQUIRER

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LIZ RAÑOLA
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Staff Writer
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Lessons from the field

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Kyoto, JAPAN

Wish tunnel

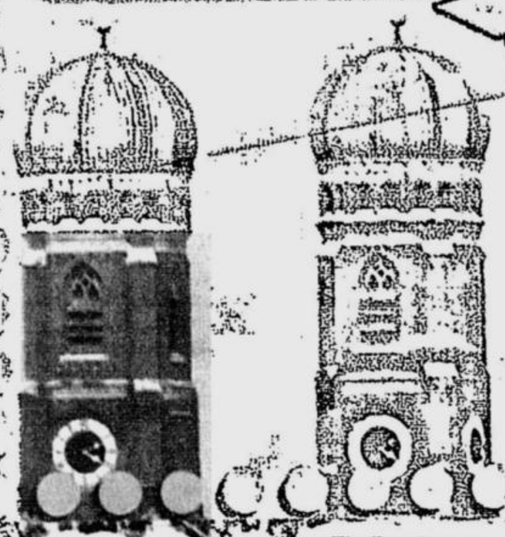
WHILE some people rely on wishbones and perhaps a rare magic lamp, this woman crawls out of a wish tunnel at Yasui Konpiragu Shrine. Her wish? To strengthen ties with her boyfriend. Some 40,000 visitors a year—mainly women—crawl into the tunnel, pray and offer money to strengthen or cut ties with their husbands or boyfriends. **Reuters**

Munich, GERMANY

Wassup World?

On a high

PERSONALLY, we'd rather be riding a plane, but high wire artists Johann Traber Jr. (bottom) and his father prefer to travel on a wire 40 meters above ground while riding a motorbike and carriage! This performance is their first after young Johann had a serious accident one year ago. **AFP**

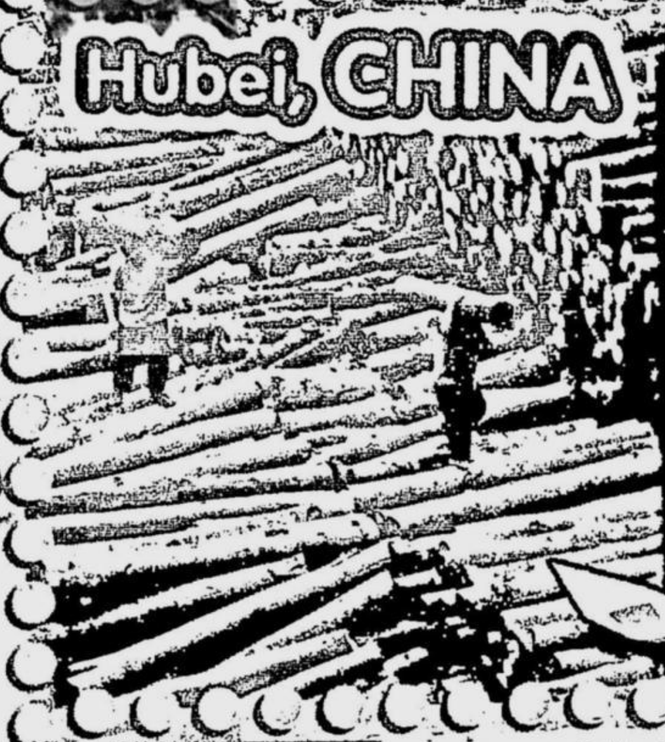


Ontario, CANADA

Echo the Brave

DOGS deserve to get medals too! Especially one as brave as Echo, who swam with his human, Tish Smith in frigid waters for over 12 hours. After their canoe capsized during a storm on Lake Huron, search and rescue teams spotted Echo swimming around Tish's unconscious body. **AP**

Hubei, CHINA



Timberrr!

IN this timber plant, fallen trees almost look like pieces of sticks because of the large quantity of timber. Major wood buyers in Europe and the United States must persuade China to bring its booming timber trade under control before it causes irreplaceable deforestation across the world. **Reuters**

Panama City, PANAMA

Wiggly treats

YOU'LL be in no hurry to finish these lollies. Waiting for you at the center is a not-so-wonderful surprise: worms! Their maker, Annie Munoz, who also makes grasshopper-filled candies, hopes to sell them throughout Panama and export to the rest of Central America and China. **Reuters**

Manila, PHILIPPINES

Eleksyon na!

CAMPAIGN posters fill Manila's walls as the country gears up for the May 14 elections. Twelve senators, 275 representatives and over 17,000 local officials from mayors to governors will be elected. This year's election campaign is the bloodiest in recent years. **AFP**

Mom

By Ruth L. Navarra

MOMS COME IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES and so do kids! That's why putting them together can sometimes lead to unpredictable results. There will be moments of fun and laughter, but there will also be misunderstandings and quarrels.

One thing's for sure: every mother-and-child tandem has stories to tell, and we couldn't wait to hear all about these kids' adventures with their moms!

Mikaela and Mama Lyn

Mikaela Fudolig and her mother Lyn were laughing as they proudly recalled the day they joined a beauty soap contest, just for kicks.

The contest entailed having their pictures taken. "I was supposed to be the 'before' face and she was to be the 'after,'" Mama Lyn says.

They both knew that they would lose but Mama Lyn didn't mind. She knew Mikki needed to feel what it was like to not win all the time.

At 12, Mikki became the youngest student ever admitted to the University of the Philippines. She graduated summa cum laude from the university's College of Physics four years later at the age 16.

One would think that a genius would come from a serious family, but Mama Lyn and Mikki gave us a lot of laughs!

Mommy Jacqueline says that one of the first things that her son Makisig does when he gets home is play with his baby sister. Being a brother is a much bigger and challenging role than playing Super Inggo or being the lead singer of Mak and the Dudes.

Makisig and M

Ten-year-old Maki has seven siblings and they're all quite a handful. In the morning, you can hear his sister Maaya singing loudly while taking a shower, while brother Maliksi does somersaults on the stairs. And when one-year-old Marikit shows signs of throwing a tantrum, Maki jumps to the rescue by asking her to sing "A doo-doo-doo, ah-da-da-da!"

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Still, Maki and his mom find time to bond, and see the best in one another.

nadme

›mmy Jacqueline

Justin and Mommy Maritel

BONG MALONG

When it comes to earth matters, nine-year-old Himerio Justin Garcia VII takes after his father. It was his dad who introduced him to the environmental group Haribon, for which he is now a young ambassador.

But when it comes to riding roller coasters at Enchanted Kingdom, his partner will always be his mom!

Makisig says

Mommy Jacqueline says

BEST MOMENTS

My mom is at her best when she massages me after a hard day's work.

Makisig is at his best when he plays with his brothers and sisters. He gets a lot of toys from people but he shares it with them.

THE UNFORGETTABLE

My favorite moment with my mom was when she hugged me during the finals of "Little Big Star." That hug gave me the courage to sing my song piece "Kastilyong Buhangin" - with confidence.

My favorite moments with Makisig are the times when we would line up outside the ABS-CBN compound to audition. There was a time when we got 1,700 as our waiting number!

IF HE/SHE WERE A TV CHARACTER...

My mom is like Tita Ai-Ai in "Tanging Ina" because she has lots of kids but she takes good care of us.

I think Makisig is like Budong, the character he plays in "Super Inggo". In real life, Makisig is really a loving son.

Mommy Maritel says

Justin says

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

My most memorable time with Justin was when he asked for my help with his signature campaign for Haribon against commercial logging and mining. He was only seven then but he made me realize the importance of what he was doing.

My most memorable moment with my mom was when she taught me how to talk and act as an emcee for my grandpa's 90th birthday.

COOL FACTOR

Justin is at his coolest when he engages in intellectual conversations with adults, sometimes even about politics! It excites him to learn new things.

My mom is at her coolest when she takes us out. We take a stroll, eat and sometimes go out of town.

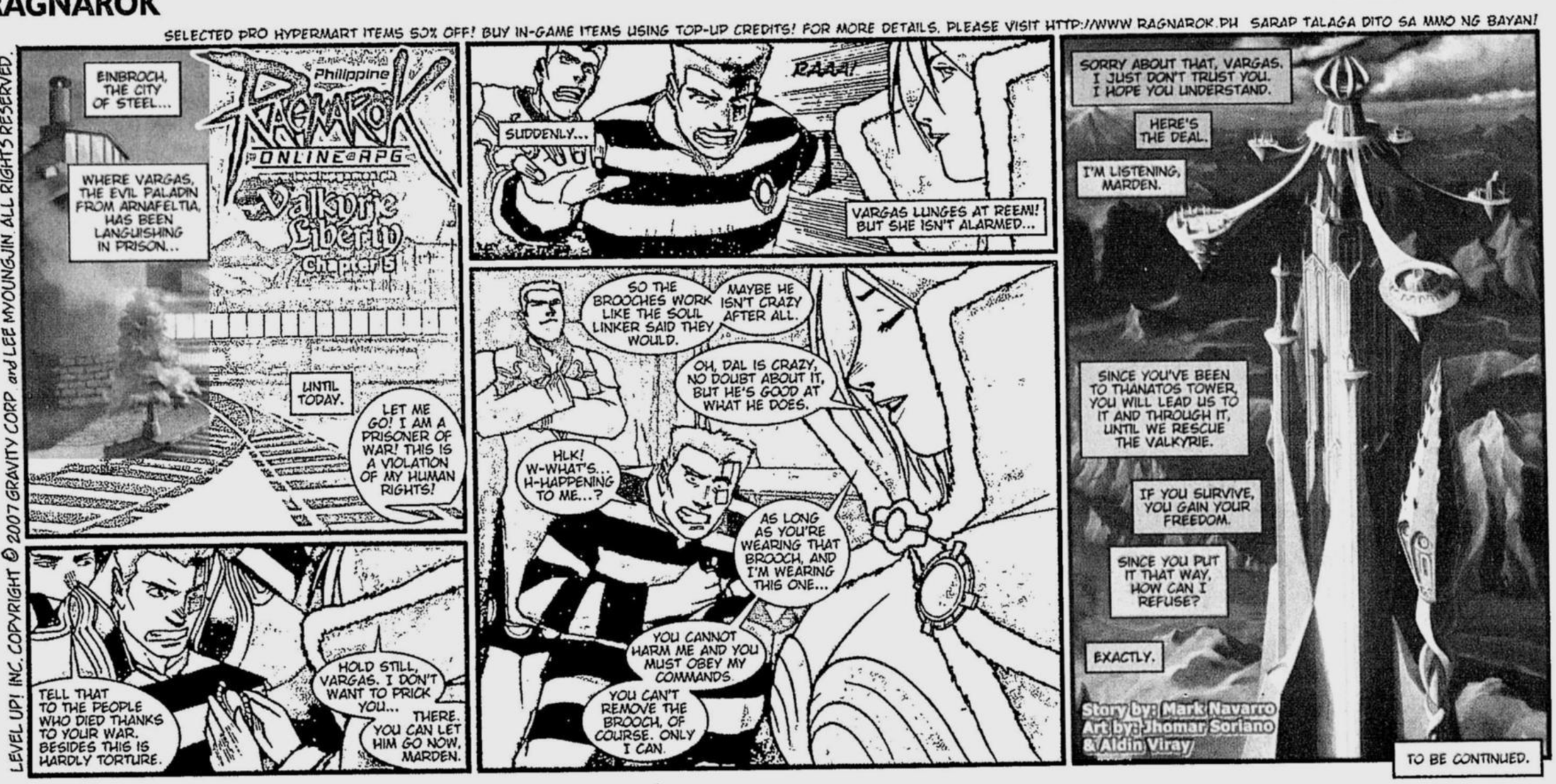
IF HE/ SHE WERE A TV CHARACTER...

Justin could be Dexter of "Dexter's Laboratory" because he likes Science, enjoys exploring new things and finds a way to make things happen.

Mommy would be Wonder Woman! She helps me out with my assignments, takes me to my taekwondo lessons and takes care of us. Even at work, she takes the time to call us and check up on us.

RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL-UP GAMES

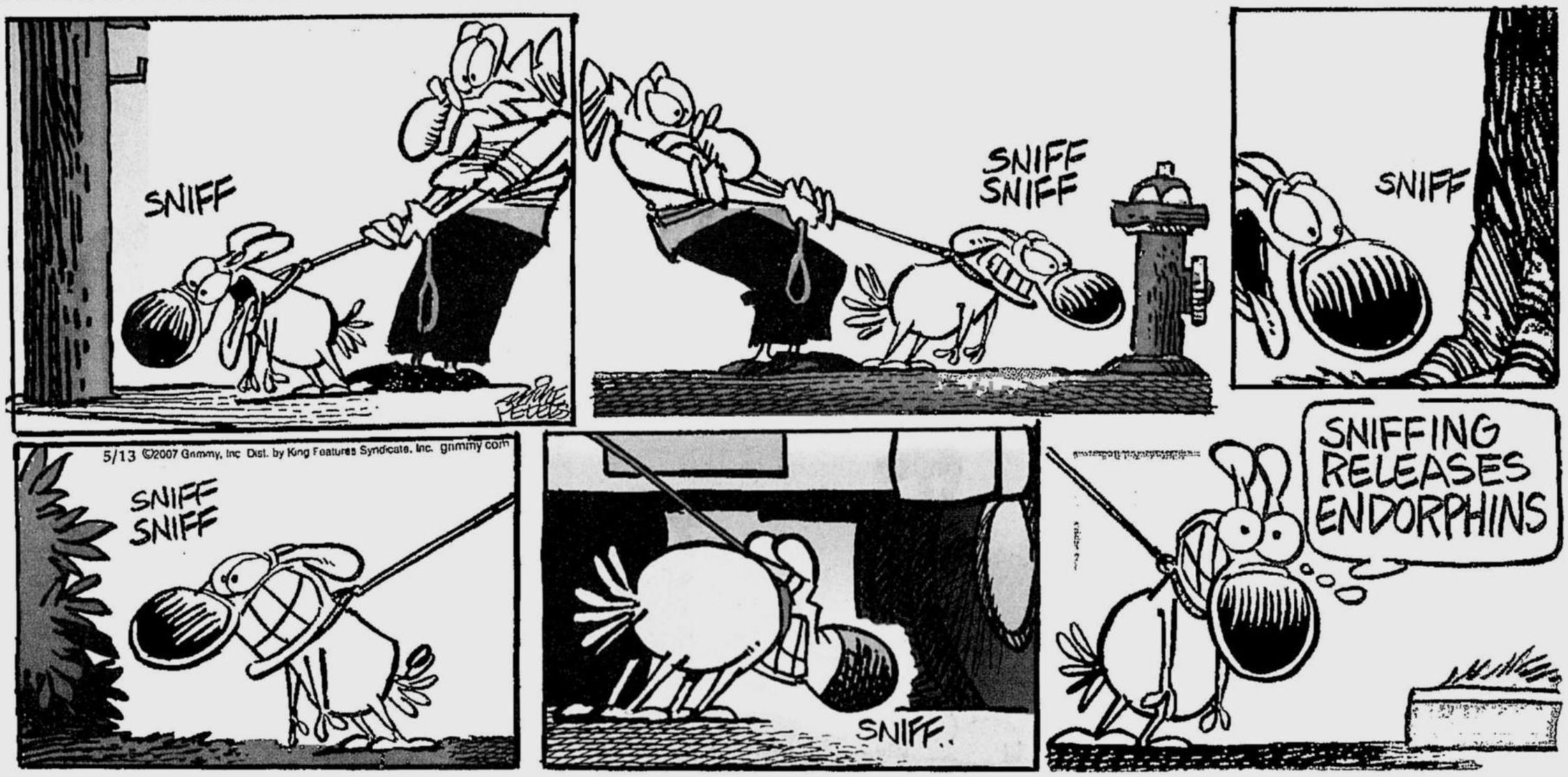


PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS



ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO

...ayINQUIRERmagaz...ne

FREE

Georgia del Rosario

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plus

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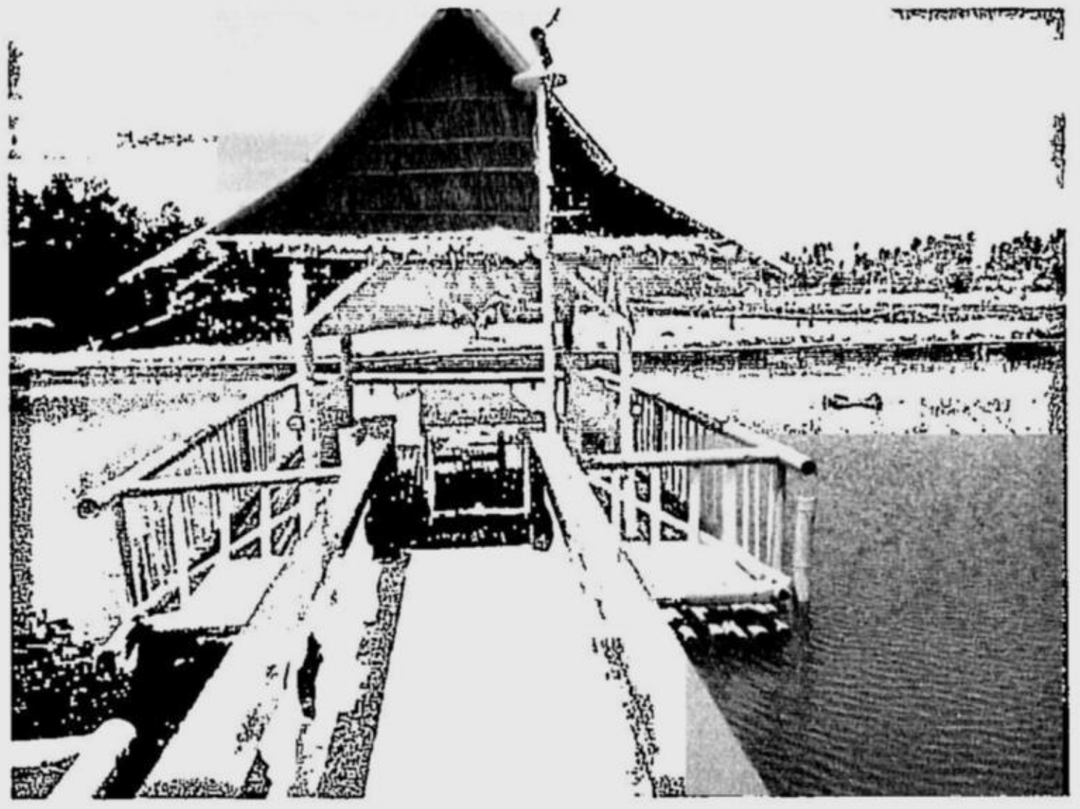
Text and photographs by Margaux Salcedo

Fishing for Compliments

Oriental Mindoro isn't quite there yet, but there are a few pit stops and restaurants where the fresh catch is worth stopping by



ONE way to beat the heat of the hottest summer in recorded history is to hie off to the beach. You can take a plane or, better still, a road trip through Southern Luzon then the RORO to Calapan, Oriental Mindoro. Drive all the way to the Roxas port in Oriental Mindoro, then take the boat again to wherever your destination is.

Now Mindoro has yet to be fully developed, so there are a few measly restaurants and hardly any real coffee for the caffeine-dependent.

One interesting pit stop I found is 3J's Pamingwitan, a floating restaurant two minutes from the Roxas port. While waiting for your scheduled boat ride, you can order some fish which they'll catch from this small hut in the middle of a fish pond and cook for you. The place is simple, made of bamboo and *sawali* and is designed to capture the midday breeze. Aside from the main hut up front, there are also mini huts at the back that are perfect for a group of eight dining in.

Best on the menu are the seafoods, of course. I was lucky enough to try a fish called *pandawan*, a not-so-ordinary fish from the waters of Bulalacao, the town at the farthest point of Mindoro Oriental. This fish has a white stomach and a black back, resembles the tangigue, and is very soft.

Actually, Mindoro is full of finned wonders. Just yesterday I bought a *batalay* from the seaside, its freshness evident in its clear eyes. It is a long fish, measuring just a little less than a meter, has a pointy snout, is not bony at all, and is *uber* soft. The other day I had *bisugo*, a kind of fish that is speared instead of caught with a fishing rod because it swims in shallow waters. They call this kind of fish "*isdang bato*" (rock fish). The fish is eye candy as it comes in an assortment of colors, including mint green and pink. This is best served grilled.

Another good pit stop is EYF at the Roxas junction, just a little off the road to the port from the National Highway (if you can call it that; it only has two lanes). This is a simple, clean, no-frills restaurant with a decent menu that's filling and reasonably priced. If you need to stay the night, it is beside a 24-hour lodging house that is also very clean.

Going back to Manila, you can opt to stop at Hungry King, in the town of Pinamalayan, the northernmost town of Oriental Mindoro's second district, or at their newly opened branch in Calapan, in the first district. Hungry King has interesting interiors: the Pinamalayan branch has a lefthand section that resembles a library while the Calapan restaurant, which just opened last week, boasts of a modern Oriental design. Best on the menu in Pinamalayan is the *Sari-Saring Sinugba* (mixed grill) while in Calapan, Ronald King, the owner, says his favorite is the *kare-kare*.

These stops should keep you going through your road trip. Enjoy! •

Finned wonder: The *batalay* (above); 3J's Pamingwitan (top)

Figure it Out

15.4: Percentage of households headed by women (2003)

24.1: Median age of women at first birth in urban areas

22.1: Median age of women at first birth in rural areas

3.5: Average number of children per woman (2001)

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

Text and photographs by Margaux Salcedo

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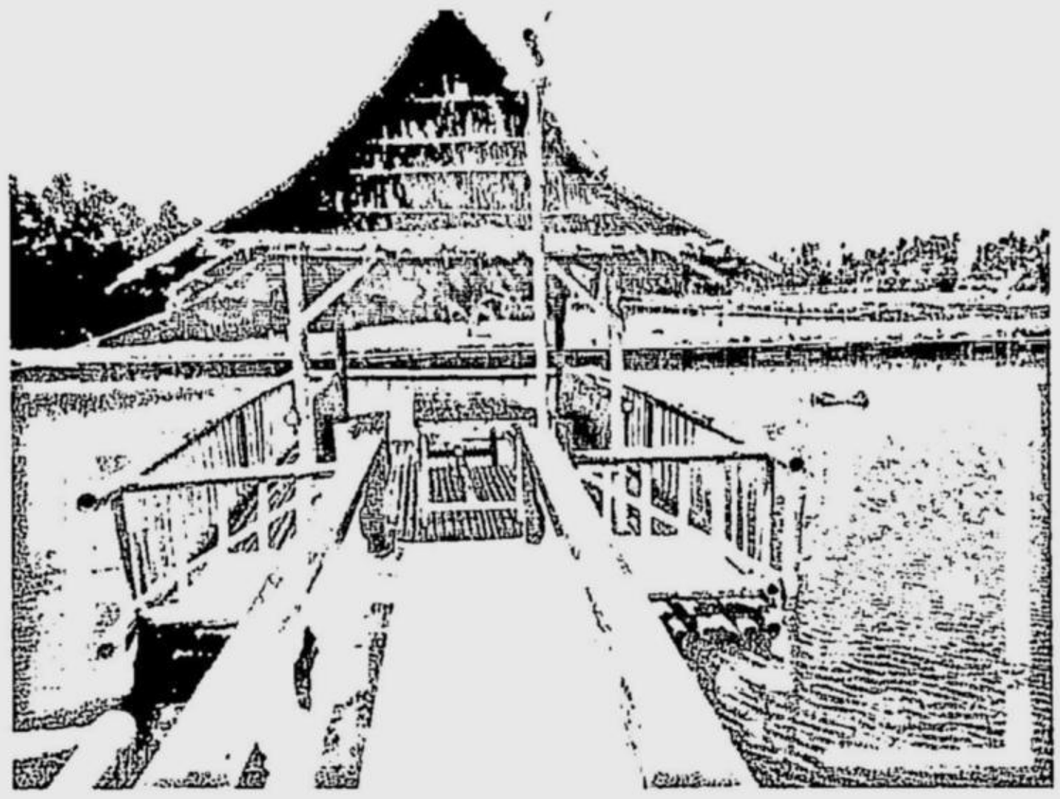

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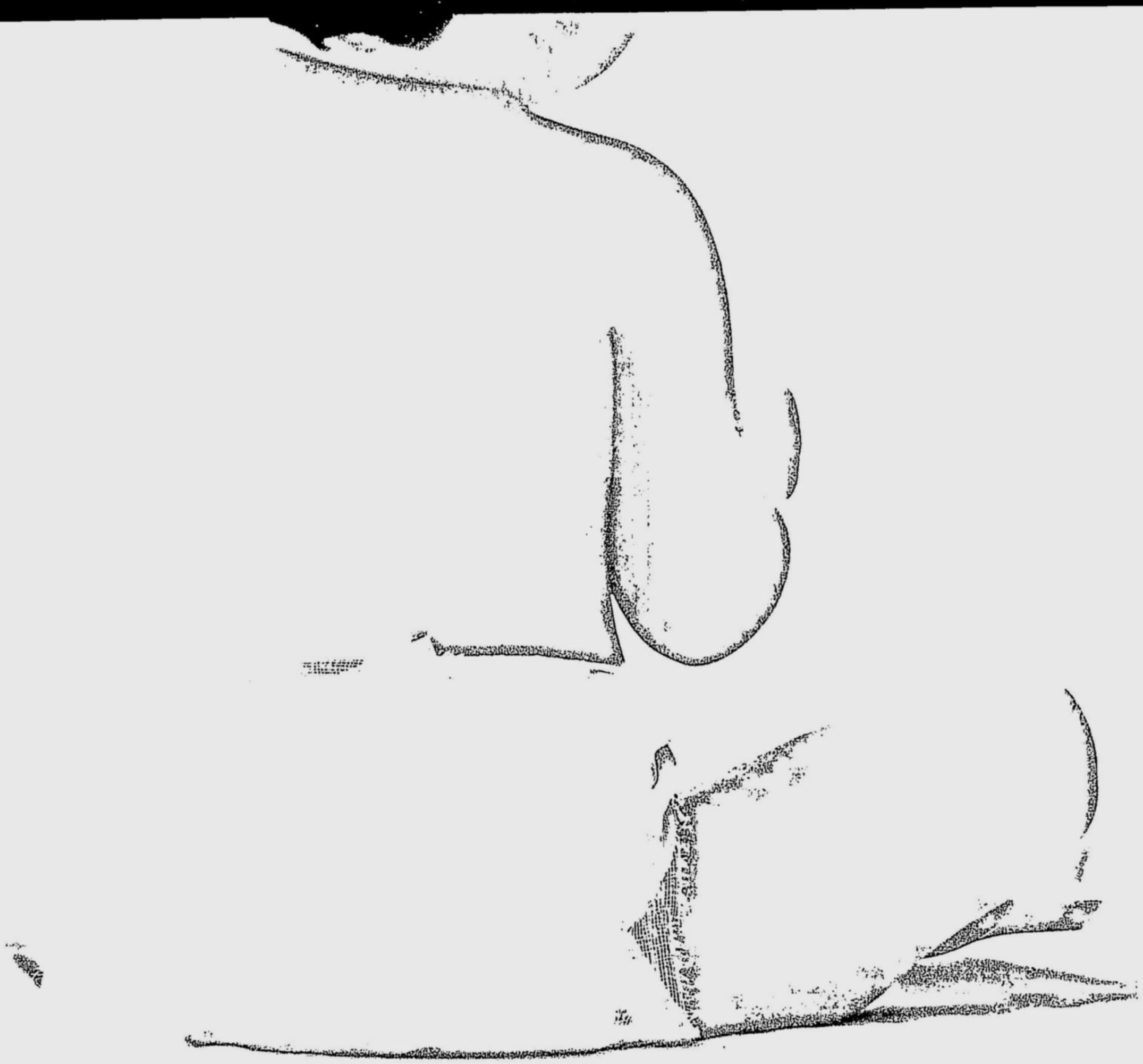
RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME



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By Marian C. Martin

The Best Advice My Mother Gave Me

"God couldn't be everywhere, so He gave us mothers." Whoever said this must have heard similar words of wisdom from mom

MOTHERS are ever-ready to hand out advice to their children who often turn a deaf ear—until they actually need it. Years after, some people still recall those nuggets of wisdom that have served them well in life. Here are a few of the best ones:

"Probably the most valuable lesson I learned from my mother is to have a great passion for whatever it is that one chooses to do. She and my father were perfect examples of this. Their dedication to the theater made them overlook sleepless nights of rehearsals, myriad production problems, and being over-budget and out-of-pocket quite often! My mother's mantra is DISCIPLINE and my brothers and I saw it in action in her numerous roles as wife, mother, teacher, actor, writer and director. Total commitment, focus and refusal to settle for slipshod work have always been her work ethic. I am proud to say that this is why she is a professional."—**Ivi Avellana-Cosio**, *painter, daughter of National Artist for Theater Daisy Avellana*

Avellana-Cosio

"Strangely enough, I don't remember my mother giving me any advice at all. Not as such, anyway. Maybe it was because both my parents had brought me up to have a mind of my own. My mother and I were really more like friends. Now I realize that she never imposed herself on me, and yet she continues to live on in my person, to be an important presence in my life. Oh yes, there was something she said that I remember to this day. She said, 'You want to know what the other driver intends to do, look at the front wheels of his vehicle.'"
—*Writer and teacher* **Bobbie Malay**, *daughter of the late writer and activist Paula Carolina (Ayi) Malay*

"My Mom is a very devout Catholic. I think the best advice she ever gave me was when she said, 'Don't worry Lisa, IN HIS TIME, all things will happen. You'll see, it will all fall into place—just trust in Him.' You have to know that this came at the time when I was

Macuja

living in Communist Russia and my own faith was being tested by an injury that prevented me from doing what I love and what I had gone to Russia for—to dance. I couldn't dance, and it was really getting to me. I was depressed. I was questioning whether or not I was really cut out to become a ballerina.

"So, by giving me this advice, my Mom comforted me in the way that I really needed comforting. She reassured me that my dreams were reachable. She didn't tell me to go home and escape. She gave me the strength to keep going.

"Until today, when I feel discouraged or things don't go the way I planned, I recall my Mom's words and take heart. I have learned to be patient and to trust in God—because it's true, *in His time*, all things will fall into place. You just have to have faith."—**Lisa Macuja**, *artistic director, Ballet Manila, daughter of Susan Macuja*

"My mother belongs to that old fashioned era that believed in and practiced the tradition that a woman should stay home and be a housewife, and not much more. She is the quiet type and you would never hear her complain of anything. However. when I was about to enter college, the only thing that I heard her say was 'It's better if the wife works too to help the family, instead of being a simple housewife.' These words I kept to heart and cherished, and they made me strive hard to finish my college degree, pursue my profession and eventually led me to my present position in government."—**Leonor T. Rosero**, *Chair, Professional Regulation Commission, daughter of Gloria Manese Tripon*

"My mother's best advice to me was 'Always do your best.' Not even God can ask you to do anything more than that. She told me that 'Even if you fail, at least you know that you did your very best.'"—**Ernest Reynoso-Gala**, *chef-instructor, food columnist, son of Chef Sylvia Reynoso-Gala*

"To know myself and to live authentically, to constantly try to learn about myself and the world, and to know that these two are connected and that this is the path to wholeness and happiness."—*Akbayan Party List Rep.* **Risa Hontiveros**

Rosero

Baraquel, *daughter of Teresita (Chit) Navarro Hontiveros, fulltime homemaker, painter, interior designer.*

"Mom always said, 'Do what you do best. If you are good at it, people will always be eager to help you.'"—**Karla Magbanua**, *owner of Claycakes, daughter of Millie Lacson-Lapira*

De Leon

"To make sure that I earn my own money. A woman should have her own source of income so she doesn't have to depend on anybody to raise her children, no matter what circumstances she finds herself in."—**Kala Constantino**, *mother of two, NGO worker, 2nd nominee of Abanse, Pinay! Party List; daughter of Alice Pulido, board member, 1st district of Pangasinan*

"My mother was a born storyteller with a great sense of humor. Even in her sunset years, *Nanay*'s palate never missed. A good cook, she would always say, *'Matuto kayong magluto, mamahay. Paano kung mag*-abroad *kayo?'* (You should learn how to cook, to do housekeeping. How will you manage if you live abroad?) Her awesome faith, sense of humor, culinary know-how and many words of wisdom—one can only learn them from a mother who truly loved and gave her all."

—**Linda de Leon**, *editor in chief, Celebrity Recipes plus Home & Gardens Magazine, daughter of Nena Martin-De Leon*

"Come to think of it, I can't recall my mom ever dishing out advice like most parents. But it's very clear in my mind that she was the best role model of how to be a good mom. As I go about my daily life raising my kids, I often think of her and what she would do under similar circumstances. Because at the end of the day, if my kids feel the same love, guidance and support that I felt from my mom, then they will have the best childhood, just like I had."—**Sen. Pia Cayetano**, *daughter of Sandra Schramm Cayetano*

"My mother, Felicitas Correa Diaz, will soon turn 82, and to this day she always gives me good advice. Her best lesson is her life's example. She was a teenager during the Second World War. Then she became a working student while aspiring to be a nun! She was not admitted for health reasons, so she decided to become a lawyer instead. Eight years later, she married her classmate Conrado, with whom she raised seven children, all of whom she breastfed and tutored in church and in school. Simultaneously, she worked at

Sen. Pia Cayetano

Quinto

the Philippine National Bank where she eventually became the bank's first woman vice president. Now retired and having recently celebrated her 54th wedding anniversary, *Lola* Fely continues to 'mother' 13 grandchildren aged 6 to 28. She tells all of us, 'work and pray.' My mother's best advice is actually summed up in the Jesuit lifestyle: Pray as if everything depended on you (Faith), and work as if everything depended on God (Providence)."—**Marilou Diaz-Abaya**, *film director*

"To be true to everybody, especially to myself. To always pray and be *mabait* and humble. Because my mother was a sampaguita vendor and she never forgot how it felt to be poor. To have a family for keeps because I came from a broken home. To be with someone I love unconditionally."—**Rufa Mae Quinto**, *TV- movie personality, daughter of entrepreneur Carol Quinto and surrogate daughter of her granny, Mommy Lucing Quinto, "who are the real Booba in my life, and my inspiration."*

"When I entered media, I wanted to please everybody: my bosses, my family, my friends, and I always got frustrated. My mom told me that I can't always please everyone, so I should identify the people whose opinions really matter to me, and listen only to them. I also remember how, even when we were growing up, she'd always allow us to make our own decisions. She always said we can do what we want but we have to be responsible for our actions. *Dapat kaya naming panindigan*. She'd give us our weekly allowance and we could spend it all in one day, but then that's it—we're on our own the rest of the week. Being held accountable for my actions helped me become independent at an early age. Even when I got pregnant and became a single mother, it was my decision and she respected that. She'd help me out when I needed money but it would strictly be a loan, not a handout. So now I have my own house and my car, thanks to a loan from my mom, which I am religiously paying back. I feel very proud about it."—**Kara David**, *broadcast journalist for GMA-7, single mother, daughter of Civil Service Commission chair Karina David* •

Diaz-Abaya

By Jocelyn R. Uy
Photographs by Rudy Esperas

Mothering Behind Bars

Even prison can't sever the ties that bind mothers to their children

THE stack of photographs that Mina Librero keeps in a box inside her cramped prison cell are her most prized possessions.

The snapshots, some of which were taken nearly a decade ago, are of her six children during the most important days of their life: her youngest boy taking his first communion; her daughter Jennifer on her wedding day, and another daughter, Jacqui receiving two medals at her college graduation, among others.

Parangan: Distance has made a stranger of her family

Some people might think this 50-year-old mother is crazy to keep painful reminders of her absence from her children's lives, but the photographs are her only link to their past.

Librero, who was convicted of illegal recruitment, started serving time at the Correctional Institute for Women (CIW) in Mandaluyong City 10 years ago, when her eldest son was still in high school and the youngest was barely five.

Maligaya and daughter: Time is running out

"I'm lucky that my husband didn't leave me after what happened," says Librero. He promised that while I'm in jail, he'd take care of our children."

But she still feels hurt and guilty for missing out on her children's growing-up years. Choking back a sob, she tells of how her 17-year-old son, Jason, drowned in a river in Cavite July last year. She only learned about it two days after the tragedy.

" I wasn't able to hug him one last time," she laments, adding that she could not even bid him goodbye as she was not allowed to leave prison to attend the burial.

Her husband sent her pictures of the interment, but after browsing through them, she asked him to bring them back home. "I could not bear to hang on to them," she says.

The one she keeps now is of her and Jason beaming at the camera during one of his visits on her birthday. She prefers to remember him during happier times, when he was a boy that she used to kiss and spank.

But Librero tries to move on and focus on her other children. She wants them to feel that they have not really lost their mother, that she's just away to earn a living, she says.

Everyday, at the crack of dawn, Librero joins the other mothers at the prison's laundry area to wash the clothes of rich inmates for P50 a day. The back-breaking chore goes on until her breaktime at noon. She then proceeds to iron clothes the whole afternoon.

When business is good, she earns P500, which she sends to her children every month.

"I know it's not enough but it is better than nothing at all," she says. Her little contribution has somehow supported her daughter, Jacqui through college, she adds proudly. She's never been happier, she adds, than on the day her daughter visited her to show off the two medals she got on graduation day.

But what delighted her more was learning how her daughter faced her fellow graduates and revealed, in her valedictory speech, the truth about her absence. "It was the first time she admitted that I'm in prison so I've never been present in any school occasion. That was really brave of her. I feel so proud," she says.

For the moment, Librero could banish the worries that have nagged her in prison for a decade now. "My daughter promised to look after her siblings and her father while I'm here. So now I have a temporary replacement," she says.

But she still prays for good health and a long life so she could make up for lost time—those days when she was not there to tuck her children to bed and give them a good night kiss, to prepare their "baon" for school, to give them a warm hug on their rough days, or soothe the angst in their teenage years.

Librero: Praying for good health and a long life

"Those are the moments I took for granted when I was still free," she admits.

These days, Librero makes an effort to catch up on her family during their twice-monthly visits when they have enough fare money.

"When they come visiting, we talk all day about anything, even their love life," she chuckles.

With her family keeping in constant touch, Librero is luckier than most inmates. Some of the women behind bars have been totally shunned by their kin. Of the 1,449 locked up inside the national penitentiary for women, 70 percent are mothers, says CIW director Supt. Rachel Ruelo.

"Female convicts, especially those who have children, have a more difficult time in prison compared to the male convicts," Ruelo admits. Aside from serving their sentence inside the jail, they are still expected to play a role that transcends the cold walls

(continued on page 9)

By Leica R. Carpo

Georgia del Rosario
Model Mom

Motherhood changes everyone, and this commercial model is no exception. The fuller figure comes with expanded options and rewards, one of them named Nadia

Kurt Arnold

Coosome twosome: Georgia and Nadia

IT'S high noon and over 100 degrees fahrenheit, and the Red Ribbon Caramel Mousse cake is melting fast. But our cover girl, Georgia Schulze del Rosario, doesn't even break a sweat as she balances her daughter Nadia and the dessert precariously on her lap. Georgia is not your usual poster girl for young mothers. Having had to quit school and abandon a burgeoning modeling career to give birth and become a full-time Mom to her now 2-year-old daughter, she chose the path "least trodden."

She says, "Taking an unusual path in life should not be an obstacle to your happiness if you focus on the positive side of things--after all you make your life happen." Recently wed and in the midst of restarting her modeling career, Georgia has learned to juggle her time raising a precocious toddler, adjusting to her newly married state, and contemplating a possible career shift.

Returning to modeling, she reveals, has not been that easy. The industry holds certain expectations and stereotypes that can turn out to be negative factors in her particular case, says Georgia. "I look 16 so the (ad) agencies often think twice when they find out that I have a 2-year-old," she explains. Childbirth has also left her with a slightly fuller figure. But this model isn't complaining. It's a small price to pay for the good things she's discovered in her newly wed state.

"Marriage is great!," enthuses Georgia. "The new responsibilities are actually liberating, because I can now make important decisions without consulting my parents." It is her sister, Nicole, a school teacher, whom she turns to and credits for giving her good parenting advice. "I don't believe in spanking," she says, explaining her style of disciplining her daughter. "I prefer to practice 'time out' when Nadia misbehaves."

In a sweet and steady voice, Georgia coos, "Look at me, Nadia, and smile for mommy..." Nadia, like any toddler in the "terrible two's," contemplates her mom broodingly for a full five seconds. Then, just when you think sparks are about to fly, the girl suddenly caves in to her mother's coaxing, and smiles. There will be no time out today. •

Mothering Behind Bars (from page 8)

of prison, she says.

Ruelo recounts the story of a 58-year-old parolee who recently suffered a stroke. The woman was granted conditional pardon last month due to her condition. She remains in jail, however, because her family is nowhere to be found. The woman has two children, whom she last saw in 1997.

Judith Parangan, 37, a single parent, shares the same sad story. Since she was transferred from the Bohol provincial jail to the national penitentiary for women in 1992, she has not seen her two children, whom she left under the care of her mother.

Living on a shoestring budget, her only way of hearing from her children is through letters and phone calls. But distance has started to turn her teenage daughter into a stranger.

"She doesn't want to talk to me even on the phone. Her letters are always curt but I try my best to show that I love her," she says.

Meanwhile, down at the prison infirmary, Marilyn Maligaya is inseparable from her 11-month-old daughter. Time is running out on both of them, she admits.

In June, when her daughter turns a year old, she has to either give her up for temporary adoption or let her sister take care of the baby while she is serving time.

It is a policy at the CIW that newborn babies spend their first year with their mothers in prison. They are separated when the babies reach their first birthday, explains Fanny Garduque, head CIW social worker.

"It hurts to part ways with my daughter," says Maligaya, who was meted out a life sentence for illegal recruitment. "But that's the price I have to pay. It's also not good for her to grow up in a place like this," she adds. •

By Claire Agbayani, single mother to Gideon Wolfgang Isidro a.k.a. Gide, 16

A Solo Act

The rewards and challenges of being a single mother

Arnie Agbayani and daughters (right); Lorie Francisco and son (below)

"*ANG tatay niya, SD*—sperm donor—*binuntis lang ako, tapos naglaho.*" (His father was merely a sperm donor—he vanished after getting me pregnant).

This is what 27-year-old single mom Beverly Siy, better known in literary circles as "Bebang," tells people who keep bugging her about her son's father. Such a candid reply always leaves them dumbfounded. It never fails!

The question is just one among the many challenges that single mothers face. On their own and pressured to make both ends meet, single moms seldom have a day off. With no helpmate, they have to take on the household chores and child rearing by their lonesome.

And that's the easy part.

Harder still to grapple with are the expectations and stereotypes that people harbor about women like them. On the one hand, single moms have to ward off suitors who think they are easy prey, lonely and desperate enough to cling to the first guy who offers them company. Men they're in relationship with could eventually drop out, citing the social baggage presented by their state, family pressures and their lack of commitment to look after somebody else's child.

Still, single motherhood has its rewards. Sometimes they even outweigh the challenges, according to our informal poll.

The challenges

Money, not surprisingly, tops the list of problems that single mothers face. Love comes a close second. "It's difficult to find a committed partner. You often find that guys are in it only for the sex," says one respondent.

On the other hand, one's sexual needs are left unfulfilled. "You have no partner and it's risky to have a one-night stand. You might get STD (sexually transmitted diseases)."

Public perception is also a downer. "People judge you right away, thinking that you're probably easy so no guy would stay with you, or that you're a bad wife so your husband left you," says another.

And of course, adds another respondent, "People always assume that women with kids are married!"

Taking care of the household becomes easier with a man around, says one woman. "There are just some chores which men do better."

Taking care of a kid by one's lonesome also means lost opportunities, especially when babysitting becomes a problem. And there's hardly time to indulge oneself, complains another single mother.

"The main hurdle, of course, is putting food on the table and other basic necessities."—**Valerie Joy Aganon**, *49, Sales/Call Center Agent, technically single*

"Being both mom and dad to my 16-year-old son, and having to understand (and eventually, put up with) the complexities of teenage angst."— **Pinky Aseron**, *44, talk show host and UP professor*

"Being the compassionate mother and disciplinarian father at the same time; splitting 24 hours for work, time for my kid, and for myself."—**Lorie Francisco**, *29, Special Education (SPED) teacher*

"Trying to effectively schedule time with my daughter, giving her what she needs, and making ends meet. Tuition is always painfully hard to come up with. Being a single mom means never having a day off: you cook and clean, and work even when you're sick. Then there is always the pressure of trying to be a good role model for my child. I want her to be color blind to race issues and to be compassionate." —**Anabel Bosch**, *31, freelance writer and musician*

"Undeserved blame (when problems arise)."—***Nanay* Nikki**, *48, CBDM Practitioner/ Disaster Response Coordinator*

"You're more careful in making decisions because you have a child to consider."—**Beverly Siy**, *27, writer*

"You don't follow the 'mainstream' thinking. You become very conscious of ethics. You redefine things on your own, knowing you are alone. Evening is the best time to reflect. The night before any day, I am already focused; I plan on how to go about

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By Jasmine W. Payo
Photographs by August de la Cruz

Mother of Champions

Behind every winner is a woman. And she's been there from the start

Audrey and mom Maricar Muñoz

IN A recent competition, gymnast Frances Audrey Muñoz felt so disappointed over her routine that she dissolved into tears.

"She was crying because she felt her score was really low," shares Audrey's mom, Maricar Prado-Muñoz. "It was her first international competition with the national team, and she felt she wasn't quite ready yet. Before every competition, we always tell her to just enjoy the experience and that the results are okay with us. But when she's not satisfied with her performance, she can't help but cry after the routine."

Fourteen-year-old Audrey, however, insists that she's never too hard on herself. "But I cry all the time," grins this youngest member of the national women's artistic gymnastic team.

Such an emotional roller coaster is all too familiar for amateur basketball player Marvin Cruz and his mom Thelma Lu-Cruz.

"It's better if I don't know that (my mom's) watching," says Marvin, who is often described as the country's top amateur point guard. "She can be very intense when she cheers. *Tuwing bumabagsak ako, akala niya sinasadya lagi ng kalaban.* (Every time I fall, she thinks our opponents do it on purpose). I always explain to her that players are still friends after the game."

"*Nakikipag-away nga ako pag tinutulak siya* (I get into arguments when he's shoved)," admits Lu-Cruz.

National swimmer Luica Gaudes Dacanay and mom Ma. Luisa Sabio-Dacanay attest to the complexity of the relationship between a mother and her athlete child.

"We're like a team," says Luica, who holds the Philippine record in the 50-meter backstroke. "*Sa* competition *parang hindi lang ako ang lumalaban, parang* parents *ko rin*. (During competition, it seems it's not just me, but also my parents, who are in the running). So we have to know if we have an effective teamwork."

Says Sabio-Dacanay, 51: "When I was still working, I had to take a leave during competitions. During the Palarong Pambansa, I went on leave for one week. When Luica has training at 5 a.m., I also wake up early to prepare her things."

The sacrifices, apparently, come easily to mothers of athletically-gifted children.

"I'm her driver," says 33-year-old Prado-Muñoz. "When Audrey was much younger, I said I'd start working when she got older. But when she got into gymnastics, I thought it best to focus on her. I'm not comfortable getting a nanny or driver to take her around. "

Lu-Cruz, a full-time housewife, is similarly attentive to her 21-year-old son with crafty on-court skills.

"*Ako ang taga-dala ng gamit niya* (I bring his things)" she says.

"*Pati labahin, si* Mama (She also takes cares of the laundry)," adds Marvin.

The 51-year-old mother admits, however, that all this doting attention on Marvin occasionally sparks some sibling rivalry.

"*Mas* focused *talaga ako kay* Marvin, *kaya minsan nagseselos yung maliit* (I'm more focused on Marvin, so sometimes my younger son gets jealous)," she admits. "Marvin's been into basketball since he was young. You can even say since birth. At 3, we noticed that he loved playing with anything round. We could never leave the mall without buying him a round object."

Prado-Muñoz, who regularly watches Audrey's practice with the national team, reveals that her family life can be a tough balancing act.

"I really spend more time with my daughter. My other son enjoys computers and prefers to read. But he has also started swimming. Now, after Audrey's gymnastics training, I go home and bring my other kid to his swimming class in Ultra."

Such attention has made the young athletes aware that while training can be tough on their bodies, it can be vicariously draining for their parents.

"I'm conscious of their efforts to support me," says Luica, a senior at the University of the Philippines-Diliman. "In Vietnam the last time I played, I wished my parents were there when they played the National Anthem. It was a beautiful moment. Times like those, you want your parents to be there

(continued on page 12)

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

	2		4					
5							1	
				2	6	9		
1			7			2		
		3				8		
		8			9			1
		6	1	8				
	7							5
					5		4	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 5/13

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Answer to previous puzzle

7	5	9	8	1	4	6	3	2
2	1	8	9	6	3	4	7	5
4	3	6	2	5	7	8	1	9
3	7	4	6	8	5	2	9	1
6	2	5	7	9	1	3	4	8
9	8	1	4	3	2	5	6	7
1	9	3	5	4	8	7	2	6
8	6	2	3	7	9	1	5	4
5	4	7	1	2	6	9	8	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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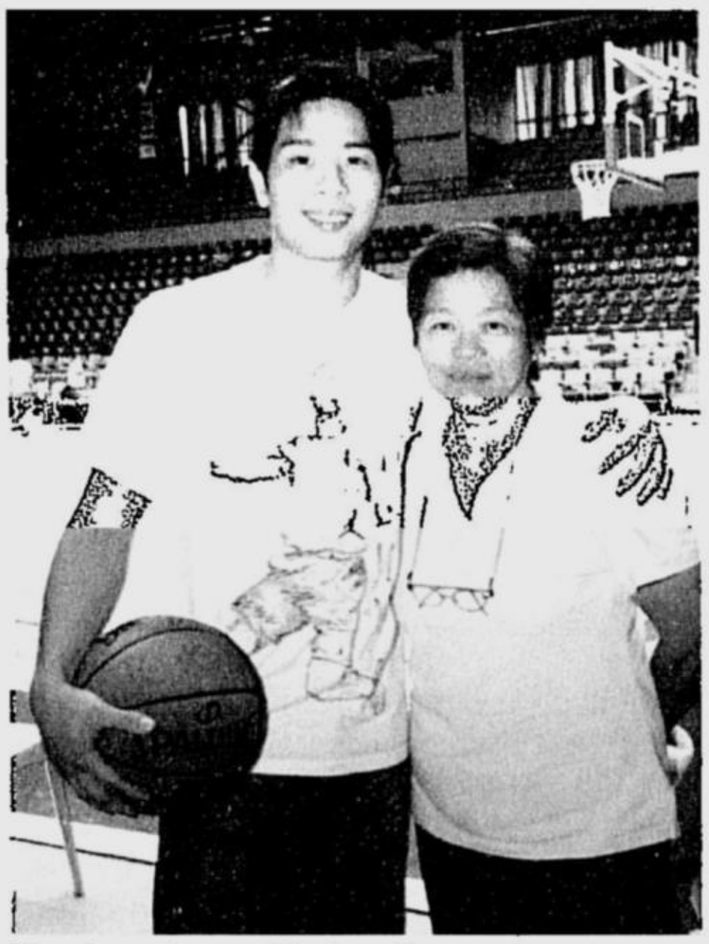
Mother of Champions (from page 11)



Marvin and mom Thelma Cruz

so you can give them the credit they deserve."

Marvin, who's playing for Toyota Balintawak in the Philippine Basketball League (PBL), is doubtly appreciative of his mother's efforts, since his father is often away for work in Hongkong.

"I'm thankful that she's been very supportive since I was young. *Parang siya na rin ang tatay namin* (She's like our father). We all depend on her. She's very caring, very understanding. *Kay* mama *lahat, pati problema* (We run to her for everything, even our problems)," says Marvin of Lu-Cruz.

"I recently thanked her," the former UP Maroons mainstay adds. "*Sabi ko*, thank you, *kasi pinapabayaan niya ako kung ano'ng gusto kong gawin sa* basketball, *pero* at the same time, *inaalagaan niya ako*. (I thanked her for giving me the freedom to do what I want in basketball, and taking care of me at the same time).

Their children's accolades notwithstanding, these mothers admit that the pressure of taking care of their young achievers can be too much.

"*Kung pwedeng ako na lang mag*-absorb *ng nerbiyos* (If only I could absorb all her tension)," says Sabio-Dacanay. "I feel nervous especially when Luica's at the starting block. I pray before every tournament."

Prado-Muñoz confirms this: "If Audrey's competition starts at 8 a.m. and finishes at 5 p.m., I don't eat the whole time until it's over. I get headaches from too much stress."

Yet the end results hardly matter for these moms.

"After every competition, win or lose, we're proud of her," says Sabio-Dacanay of her eldest daughter, the UAAP Athlete of the Year for the last two seasons. "What's good about her is that she knows how to handle herself. She doesn't get rattled and she makes the right decisions."

Prado-Muñoz agrees: "At her age, I just want Audrey to enjoy herself. Every time she competes, we don't set high expectations so as not to pressure her. The training itself is pressure enough. She's still young. Just seeing her improve and enjoy what she's doing—that's okay with me." •

Luica and mom Luisa Dacanay

By Laarni Ilagan
Photographs by Marilou Guieb
Women's Feature Service

She Believes Even Criminals Deserve a Mother

A mother's love can soften even the most hardened felon, says this Benguet jail warden. And that's not just a motherhood statement

BENGUET Province—Capt. Mary Ann Ollaging-Tresmanio is a dentist by profession, a mother at heart and a jailer by practice.

At 34, she is the first woman jail warden in the province of Benguet in the Cordillera Region. Everyday, she treads the delicate balance between giving the most humane treatment to inmates and maintaining discipline in jail cells.

Although a diminutive 5'2 in height and weighing only 55 kilograms, Tresmanio's inner strength has inspired respect among murderers, thieves, and rapists who are among her wards. Where others see only felons who deserve to suffer for their crimes, this warden sees people whose lives can still be turned around.

Tresmanio, who extends her mothering skills to prisoners under her watch, has had a lot of practice at home. She is a doting mom to Klein Wyll, 7, and Lex Baron Josh, 3, and a nurturing spouse to husband Bartolome.

This warden started working for the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) in Baguio City in 1996. Her father, William Ollaging, a senior jail officer in Kalinga when he retired, had suggested that she apply for a job in the same organization that he was working in.

Tresmanio in her other household

First hired as the jail dentist, Tresmanio was soon drafted as custodian of female inmates and their escort to court hearings because of the BJMP's lack of female personnel. She initially had a difficult time dealing with inmates, she admits, because she did not undergo the rigorous "Basic Recruit Course" that physically and psychologically prepares new recruits for the service.

In December 2005, she was assigned to the Benguet District Jail as jail warden. It was here that she sought to live out the maxim she so passionately believes in: "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."

By successfully establishing linkages with provincial and municipal executives and non-government organizations, Tresmanio was able to obtain much-needed assistance to improve the lives of inmates and her staff of 17.

Last March, the District Jail held a graduation for its first batch of successful inmates who had completed training in a "Washi Gami" (hand-made paper) workshop conducted by foreign students of the Saint Louis University (SLU) under the Swiss Social Works exchange students program. The initial venture earned the graduates P20,000, part of which was used to train other batches. But more than the money, the achievement gave the inmates a sense of self-worth, knowing that they have a skill with which they could earn a decent living.

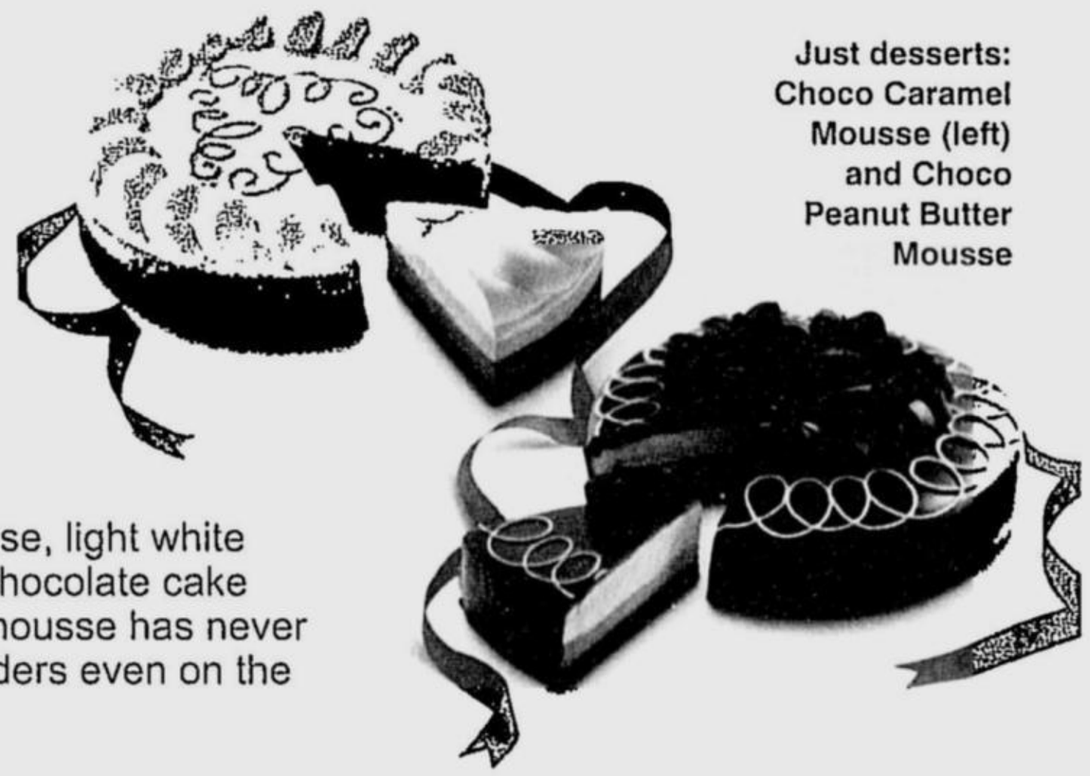
The project also focused attention on Tresmanio's best assets on the job: patience and attention to detail, traits that helped her accomplish what her male-counterparts have failed to do in the past. Aside from following up pending projects at the local government level, she has also seen to the repairs of the roofing of a multi-purpose hall, now used for religious services and other activities.

A woman's touch is apparent as well in the prison walkways, now cemented, which has solved the perennial problem of mud being trekked in. The warden has also gotten a positive response to her request for additional cavans of rice for the inmates and was able to secure a computer to facilitate and organize reports.

Like a conscientious homemaker who oversees the welfare of everyone in her household, Tresmanio put up a cooperative store with her staff, a venture that augments the per diem of personnel who escort inmates to town hearings. In the past, the staff used their

(continued on page 14)

Mom's Sweet Little Helper



Just desserts: Choco Caramel Mousse (left) and Choco Peanut Butter Mousse

GOOD mothers know that sparing the rod may spoil the child, but these days they know a better way to get kids to behave. Why not match good counsel with the promise of a special treat—especially a sweet one?

Helping mothers and children get along famously for almost 28 years now, Red Ribbon cakes have proven to be Mom's sweet little helper. Using only the best ingredients, Red Ribbon has consistently provided mothers with a wide choice of delicious and tastefully designed cakes to put kids on their best behavior. After all, which little tyke can resist such treats as the classic Black Forest cake or the irresistible Chocolate Marjolaine? As the song goes, sweet dreams are made of these.

For most mothers, anything with chocolate works with children, but if you really want to seal the deal, don't settle for anything less then Red Ribbon's Chocolate Mousse. With a creamy smooth mousse, light white frosting and yummy chocolate cake base, the chocolate mousse has never failed to work its wonders even on the naughtiest of brats.

And to sweeten the deal even more, Red Ribbon introduces two new mousse desserts—Choco Caramel and Choco Peanut Butter Mousse—to give mothers and children more choices with which to call a truce.

Discover the light, velvety goodness of Choco Caramel Mousse that combines the sinful goodness of dark chocolate mousse with the rich creamy taste of caramel and the crunch of a cookie layer. Wrap it up with white chocolate ganache and crown it with caramel swirls and your kids will surely know what heaven tastes like. Why not promise them that for every good deed?

Or you can let your children savor the classic mixture of peanut butter and chocolate in Red Ribbon's Choco Peanut Butter Mousse. Perfectly wrapped in dark chocolate ganache and adorned with melt-in-your-mouth chocolate curls and peanut butter swirls on top, the Choco Peanut Butter Mousse allows the taste of childhood to seep in with every bite. It's guaranteed to turn kids into putty.

Now, mothers can call for their little helper anytime with Red Ribbon's delivery hotline. Call 747 7777 in Metro Manila and you get sweet relief delivered right at your doorstep. Into the mouth of babes goes creamy goodness, and into your days, some well-earned peace and quiet. •

She Believes Even Criminals... (from page 13)

Overseeing her wards

own money to attend hearings in Pangasinan, Buguias, and other provinces where the cases of inmates were to be heard.

Beyond her administrative and management skills, however, what counts most among Tresmanio's staff and prison wards is her dedication to their welfare. Under her wing are five minors, kids in their early teens facing murder, theft and homicide charges, whom she treats like her surrogate children.

The maternal role becomes her, but Tresmanio would be the first to admit that in the beginning, the job intimidated her.

"I used to read about cases of incestuous rape and such crimes only in *komiks*," she reveals. "On my first day at the Baguio City Jail, I almost gave up. My mind was unprepared for the shock of seeing inmates in physical tussles shouting verbal abuses at each other. I thought, 'Wait, I think this is not for me.' It took several pep talks with my dad to convince me to go on. He always said that, in time, I'll learn how to deal with clients in crisis. And I did," she says.

Tresmanio's determination to excel in a man's world is a story of triumph as well for the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which calls for job opportunities based, not on gender, but on ability and output. CEDAW is the international bill of rights of women adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 18, 1979 which the Philippines ratified on August 5, 1981.

Tresmanio credits her strength in dealing with the day-to-day crisis and stress of her job to her Catholic upbringing in the town of Tinglayan, the most remote town of Kalinga province in the Cordillera region, where generations of fierce tribal wars occured over water rights. •

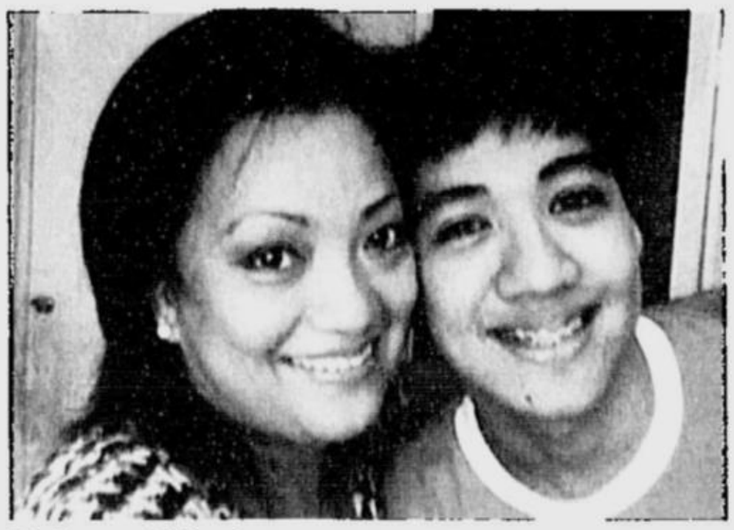
A Solo Act (from page 10)

the next day in the most effective manner—not just in handling the business, but the children as well. It's no longer a challenge. It's become a lifestyle: thinking like a man and managing your life singlemindedly. You become more private and selective—the people I trust are friends I have known since kindergarten."— **Vivamaria,** *52, shopkeeper*

"Providing the basics plus the nurturing, and keeping sane and happy while doing all that solo parenting."—**Arnie Agbayani**, *development worker, mother to Irene (19), Nina (17) and Frances (9)*

"The society-induced 'stigma' of being a single mom/parent...Being one gives you this strange urge to make every moment count to fill the absence of the missing-in-action parent. Spontaneity became my middle name. I'd rouse Una at the crack of dawn to sneak off to the beach and watch the sunrise, collect seashells and broken glass. We would hie off to book sales, splurge on cheap books, go to our favorite diner/fastfood outlet, and spend a quiet afternoon reading while munching on fries and nursing our Coke floats. On other days, we'd sit in our booth and make up stories about the people across us, or sketch their profiles on our sketch pads. I would make boring meals interesting by turning off all the lights, and we'd have candle-lit dinners while conversing in fake British accents. We would read poetry to each other in the dark using flashlights, sit on rooftops at sunset and wait for the first star, stay in our pajamas all day on lazy weekends doing movie marathons, drop everything and waltz around the kitchen floor to the Beatles' 'Here, There, and Everywhere', and name all our inanimate possessions. I filled her memory with countless rain dances, endless morning cuddling sessions, cereal-fests, and talking late into the night until we fell asleep in each other's arms."—**Vicky Cayago**, *ageless, credit analyst*

Beverly Siy and son EJ



Pinky and Vinnie

Vicky and Una

The Rewards

The rewards are numerous as well, starting with the sheer freedom of being able to make decisions on one's child, "without consulting anybody, especially the absentee father," says one respondent.

And then there's the spontaneity of the moment. "I can go take a hike, go mountaineering, or swim without having to ask permission from anybody," says one single mother. "You only take care of your child and not your partner. Other moms have to take care of their immature spouses as well," cites another solo parent.

Yet another reveals: "I get to spend more time with my son without any competition for his affection. Plus, I only spend for him so there's more money to go around."

Putting self first becomes an imperative, say several solo mothers: "I can flirt without feeling guilty, spend more time on myself, sleep late, focus on being a mom and not a wife, and best of all, there are no in-laws to bother with."

The rest of the answers:

"Undivided love and no competition."—***Nanay* Nikki**, *mother to three daughters*

"One hundred percent love from my five-year-old boy."—**Lorie Francisco**, *mother to Renshi*

"The biggest reward is having a son who is such a gentleman, intelligent, well-loved, creative and very level-headed."—**Pinky Aseron**, *mother to Vinnie Pacleb, 16, incoming college freshman*

"Our children appreciate the fact that we had to go through this alone, so they grow up to be supportive of us any way they can. Also, the fathers more often than not end up being the bad guy, *di ba*? Oh, and some other perks like you get to inherit their old laptops, digital cameras, cellphones (although my son gave me a brand new N70 for Mother's Day last year!) and other techno-geeky stuff they would like us to have. And lastly, you get to have posterity! Children are our ticket to immortality."—**Valerie Joy Aganon**, *mother of 5*

"After getting over the society-induced 'stigma' of being a single mom/parent, being one becomes a cinch. After a while, the neighborhood gossip becomes bearable. Una is 14 now, and watching her fight her own battles and come up stronger and unscathed is reward enough for my effort at giving her a full life single-handedly."—**Vicky Cayago**, *mother to Una Aurea Cayago-Buendia, 14*

"For me, the ultimate reward is having raised a daughter who has a kind heart. Even if I messed up everything else, I did that right."—**Anabel Bosch**, *mother to Anna Mishaela Bosch a.k.a. Mishka, 10.*

"How the kids turn out is attributed to you mostly, and just like other mothers, you get a full life loving your children."—**Arnie Agbayani**, *46, widow, mother of three*

"After all the struggles and hardships of raising a 14-year-old daughter single-handedly, I have come to realize that I am not alone in my journey. I have a merciful God who provides all our needs and has been very faithful in His promises that He will take care of us. When He said that He would be the father of my child and asked me not to fear, but rather overcome my worries, He did."—**Veronica Yaokana**, *mother to Ali, 14.*

"Spiritual freedom. No one or nothing can mess you up. The children also become pretty independent. They pick up your strength. They have a very strong sense of independence because they saw me struggle as a human being and evolve into who I am now."— **Vivamaria,** *mother of 3* •

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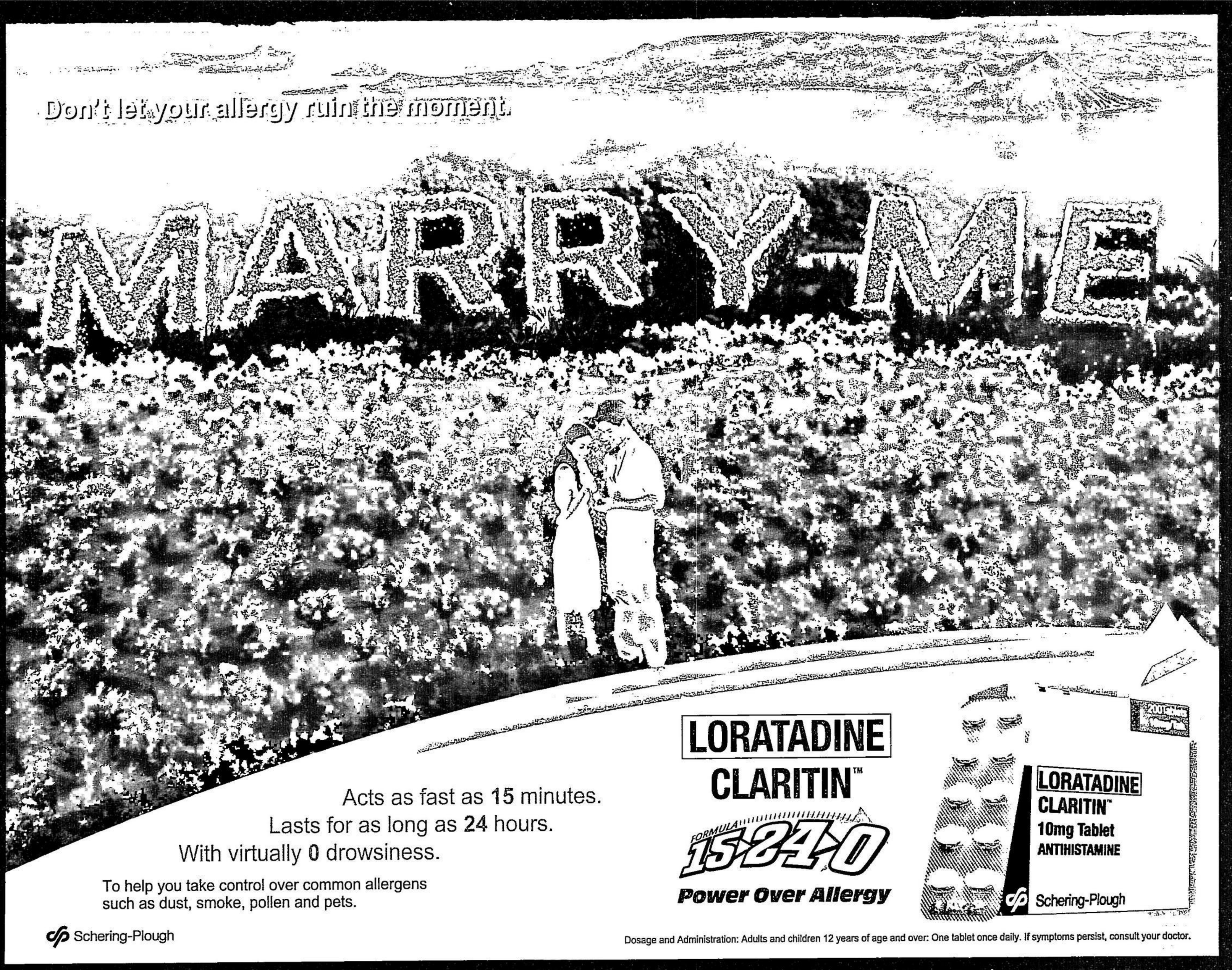

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